ETHE INDEPENDENT

Why a station in orbit is a waste of space FRONT



Hague faces leadership crisis as five more peers join rebellion



10.30am Lord Fraser of Carmyllie Confirms he has resigned as Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Lords employment says he has resigned



2.27pm Lord Pilkington of Oxenford Spokesman on education and



2.27pm Lord Bowness Spokesman on environment, transport | Spokesman on trade and the and regions confirms he has resigned | Treasury confirms he has resigned



2.27pm Earl of Home



3.44pm **Baroness Strange** Announces she has resigned and joined the independent peers

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WILLIAM HAGUE faced a crisis of confidence in his leadership of the Conservative Party last night amid a rebellion by Tory peers over his decision to sack Lord Cranborne as their leader

Four Tory frontbench spokesmen resigned yesterday in protest at Lord Cranborne's dismissal, and a Lickbencher defected from the party to join the independent crossbenchers. Mr Hague's allies admitted that further resignations were possible.

Another day of dramatic developments at Westminster left even some MPs loyal to Mr Hague admitting that his credibility had been badly dentedby his rejection of a compromise plan for Lords reform.

The scheme, drawn up by crossbench peers and endorsed by Lord Cranborne and Tony Blair would reprieve 91 hereditaries until the Government iniroduced wider reform of the second chamber. Despite Mr Hague's initial hostility to the agreement, it is expected to go ahead next year as part of the Bill to remove the right of the other 650 hereditaries to sit and vote in the Lords.

BY ANDREW GRICE AND COLIN BROWN

Although Mr Hague vowed to maintain the Tories' opposition to the measure, ministers said last night he looked impotent because of the widespread support among his own peers for the compromise plan.

Senior Tories were trying to hridge the growing divide between the party in the Commons and Lords, which some described as historic.

Mr Hague's hopes of containing the rebellion were dashed as Lord Fraser of Carmyllie resigned as deputy Tory leader in the Lords, saying he felt "disgusted and apalled" at the dismissal of Lord Cranborne. "I'm just bewildered by what happened and I just don't understand the basis on which Robert Cranborne was sacked," be said.

prime minister Sir Alec Douglas Home, Lord Pilkington criticised Mr Hague's climbdown, in the face of the revolt by his peers, to accept the main elements of the compromise plan. Despite sacking Lord Cranborne for negotiating the deal, he had now accepted it in the cold light of day. He urged other frontbenchers to "exam-

ine their consciences." The Lords are leaping every hour," one minister said. A Tory MP admitted: "To lose one peer is unfortunate, but to lose five is a disaster."

The rebellion caused such turmoil that the Tories said Mr Hague's new team in the Lords could not be named until next week. Despite an appeal for loyalty by Lord Strathclyde. the successor to Lord Cranborne as leader. Baroness Strange resigned from the Tory party and joined the ranks of the crossbenchers in protest. Asked if she would consider rejoining the Tories if Mr Hague resigned, she replied: "I should think about it."

Lady Strange, an hereditary peer, said: "I believe if you are a leader of a party you must support all those you are responsible for. If you are not prepared to do that you are not the person to lead."

In the face of the revolt, Mr Hague wrote to the Prime Minister, warning him the Tories

he no longer has the troops,"

allow full-scale reform, turning the Lords into a partly elected

would reject his attempt at second chamber, to be ap-"horse-trading". with the clear proved before the next generthreat to carry on the "trench al election. It would also warfare" in the Lords. But the increase the prospects of an threat was dismissed with conearly referendum on proportempt by ministers last night. tional representation for House One said: "He can hluster, but of Commons elections. Ministers piled the pressure

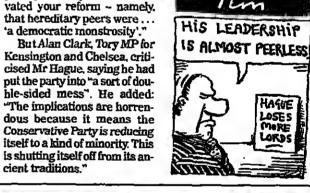
Mr Blair will seek to inon Mr Hague by announcing the likelihood of avoiding "guercrease Mr Hague's isolation in his own party by speeding "stage two" of the Government's Lords reforms, A Royal Commission to draw up proposals, to be set up early in the new year, will be asked to report in just 12 months instead of the two years originally envisaged. Ministers say this could mance of the privatised train

rilla war" in the Lords over the hereditaries meant they will bring forward two key measures that were dropped from last week's Queen's Speech setting up a Food Standards Agency and a Strategic Rail Authority to fulfil John Prescott's pledge to improve the perfor-

Lord Strathclyde told peers that the Tories had suffered blows in the past 24 hours, but added: "When we have retired briefly to lick our wounds we shall return. Hydra-like, to be as

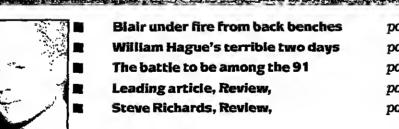
sition as we always have been." In his letter, Mr Hague accused Mr Blair of a "staggering U-turn". He wrote: "By putting forward a proposal to keep hereditary peers, you have

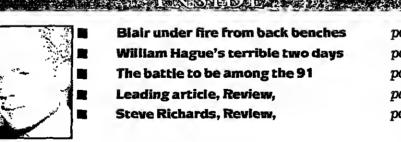




Then three other frontbenchers joined the rebellion: Lord Bowness, the environment spokesman; Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, who spoke on education; and the Earl of Home, a trade and industry spokesman and son of the former Tory

page2 page 3 page3 page3 page3





effective and thorough in oppo-

completely abandoned the one

Europe's banks cut rates in harmony

EUROPE'S CENTRAL bankers delivered an unprecedented synchronised cut in interest rates across the Continent yesterday in response to fears of a global economic slowdown.

It was in effect the first decision of the new European Central Bank, ahead of the launch of the euro on 1 January. The move means the Bank of England is now firmly expected to cut UK loan rates for the third time in three months after next week's meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee. The unexpected European

Economics Editor

announcement therefore got a warm welcome from business and the City. Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), said: "It is the right action since inflationary pressures are minimal across Europe and the real danger is from a slowdown in

Share prices in London surged ahead in anticipation of a pre-Christmas cut from the Bank of England. The Bank has

already knocked 0.75 percent- mist at Deutsche Bank, said: cern in the financial markets age points off rates, taking them to 6.75 per cent, and a further move would cut the cost of

After yesterday's reduction

of 0.3 percentage points, Euro-

pean interest rates stand at 3 per cent - except in Italy, where they have fallen to 3.5 per cent. But the decision, led by Germany's Bundesbank, was not all good news. It reflected the risk of a serious economic

launched. Michael Lewis, an econostep. There is a slowdown

However, Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank's president, denied that the bank had been arm-twisted by politicians. Both Oskar Lafontaine, Ger-

under way.'

many's new Finance Minister. and his French counterpart Dominique Strauss-Kahn, have made no secret of their desire bankers' concern about the to see interest rates fall. Neither wants the new European curdownturn just as the euro is rency to be born into a serious recession on the Continent. There was even greater con-

"This was an unprecedented about whether the series of interest rate cuts meant central bankers had reason to expect a fresh bout of global financial turbulence.

Yesterday the Brazilian stock market plunged after it became apparent that the country was unlikely to meet the terms of a new International Monetary Fund rescue package for its troubled

The failure of the package might threaten further chaos of the kind that toppied Long Term Capital Management, a

speculative investment fund, in September.

Economists said flagging husiness confidence and pronounced weakness in European manufacturing amply justified the co-ordinated cuts in European interest rates.

"It's certainly not all gloom and doom, but what we're seeing is that the global slowdown is having a severe impact on goods-producing industries," said Ellen van der Gulick, an economist with JP Morgan in

Business, page 18 **Business Outlook, page 19**

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Peace talks Progress in the Northern Ireland peace talks appeared to have stalled

Mayorai Candidates Who will win the battle for London's Lord Mayor? Name P9

The Anglo-French talks began with discussions on joint defence initiative Foreign P13

Bolshol Theatre Russia launched appeal to save Bolshoi Theatre Foreign P16

Share slump in Brazil Brazilian shares plunged re-igniting fears of further markets turmoil **Business P18**

Historic Divide English cricket voted for two divisions. Sport P30

Steve Richards Why Hague has been trapped in a pantomime

over the Lords Comment P3 Philip Hensher

How tempting to burn the works of C S Lewis Comment P4

Ann Treneman Being a woman is a medical tragedy - if you believe the doctors Comment P5

Roberts radio Charlotte Bingham's favourite design classic Design P9

Bridge to nowhere The longest bridge over the Thames stops short of the other side Architecture P10

Panic attacks Why they happen and how to deal with them Science P11





STARTING IN THE INDEPENDENT

A step-by-step, four-part guide to home computing in language you and your family will understand

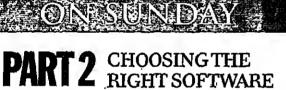


CHOOSING THE RIGHT COMPUTER



Where to go to buy a computer

- The questions to ask when you get there The best PCs under
- What to do when it all goes wrong





How to find the

- What you should buy to run your business ● How to build your own
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TOMORROW Benn hits at Blair's tactics on Lords

TONY BLAIR came under fire BY ANDREW GRICE from some Labour MPs last night over the surprise U-turn

91 hereditary peers.
Although the crisis in the Tory party over the compro-mised plan for Lords reform overshadowed Mr Blair's tactical retreat, left-wing MPs claimed the Prime Minister has breached the party's manifesto commitment to scrap the right of all 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the second chamber.

Tony Benn, the MP for Chesterfield, warned that the Government might never proceed with full-scale reform of the Lords and could allow the temporary reprieve of the 91 hereditaries to become permaneot. He also suggested that Mr Blair had struck the deal in order to preserve his "enormous powers of patronage" over the appointment of peers. "The Prime Minister gets what he wants - the right to appoint batches of peers," Mr Benn said.

"To imagine that there would ever be another stage [of reform] after this is wildly optimistic. I think it would be intended to last for a very long time. I imagine they intend it to be permanent. The 91 peers who survive will not want to go

in which he agreed to reprieve and the Prime Minister would do anything rather than give up his power of patronage.

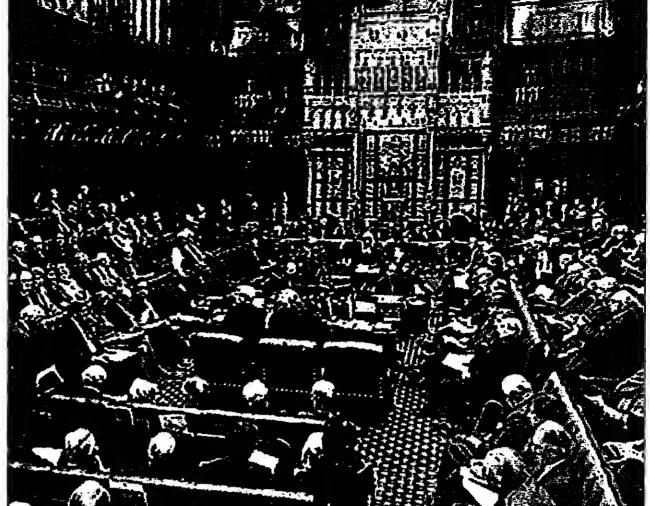
Mr Benn said the whole affair would look different once the dust had settled. "When you forget all the clever tactical tricks of embarrassing Hague and looking brilliant, and when you look beneath the surface, this is another action to protect an unelected House of Lords." he said.

Gordon Prentice, Labour MP for Pendle, said the hereditary peers should have been removed from the Lords in one go. "We had absolutely no idea about it. It would have been nice to have been told," he said.

Another Labour MP normally loyal to Mr Blair, said the 91 hereditaries would remain as life peers when "stage two" of the Lords reform went ahead. "I don't think that will go down very well on the Labour benches; it would be seen as a backdoor attempt to keep alive the hereditaries," he said.

But other Labour MPs were content to enjoy Mr Hague's discomfort. "They are whooping with joy at every twist and turn," said one minister.

Downing Street insisted that the consensus agreement bro-



The House of Lords yesterday; Blair is under attack for striking a deal to reprieve 93 hereditary peers

kered by crossbench peers, Lord Cranborne and the Government would speed up rather than delay "stage two" of Lords reform, which is expected to turn it into a partlyelected chamber.

The manifesto commitment will be bonoured," said one Government source.

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

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Ministers said the legislation could be on the statute book before the next general election, although some senior Liberal Democrats believe a more likely timescale would involve Labour and the Lih Dems putting their blueprint for reform into the manifestos at the

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Coldest (day): Princetown -1C (30F)

Mr Blair is keen to convince reform programme could be the sceptics that he is serious about "stage two" of Lords reform; he knows showing such intent would ease the passage of the hill on hereditary peers

through the second chamber. Yesterday ministers sped the process up by ordering officials to see whether the Lords

brought forward.

The Royal Commission, which is to look at options for "stage two" and which will be set up early in the new year, will have a tight timetable; it will probably report in just one year, rather than the two years originally envisaged.



FORECAST

General situation A bitterly cold day everywhere, with a brish northerly wind adding to the chili. Along the North Sea coast there will be some shawers, many of them consisting of sleet or snow. One or two wintry showers will also break out across north Wales and Northern Ireland. Eastern Scotland will have some snow showers as well, especially along north-facing coasts and over the mountains, where some of the snowfalls will be heavy. The rest of the UK will stay dry with some decent sunny spells throughout the day.

London, SE England: Another very cold day. There will be the odd coastal shower, some of them writty, but also some decent spells of sunshine. A mate northerly wind, Max temp 2-4C (36-39F).

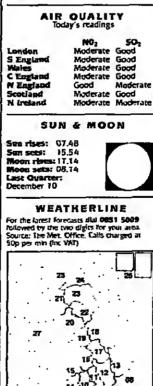
E Anglia, E England, Cent N & NE England, N Wales, late of Man: Very cold, especially in the wind. There will be frequent wintry showers and just a few bright spells. A moderate to fresh northerly wind. Max temp 2-4C [36-39F]. Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, S Wates, Midlands, NW Englan Lake Dist: Mostly dry with sunny spells, but feeling very cold. A moderate northerly wind. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F).

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Some heavy snow showers, especially along the coast and over the highlands, but sheltered parts of the south will be drier and brighter. A strong northerly wind, Max temp 0-2C r32-36F).

NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Very cold with the odd snovz shower over the highlands, but dry vaid sunny spells elsewhere. A moderate northerly wind. May temp 1-3C [34-37F]. N Ireland: One or now wintry showers in the north, Very cold but dry and bright elsewhere. A moderate northerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (36-43F).

Tonight will be cold and frosty. Temorrow will stay very cold with further wintry showers in the east and more substantial snow in northern Scodland, Elsewhere will be dry with sunny spells. Staying cold in the south on Sunday, but becoming milder in the north and tyest.

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24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Wed'sday: information by PA WeatherCentre RAIN OR SHINE... RAIN CLOUDS over Bangkok cut short elaborate plans to begin opening ceremonies for the 13th Asian Games, which start on Sunday. King Bhumi-

bol Adulyadej was to light the

games flame, a large ceremonial candle in a gold and glass case, using the sun's rays and a magnifying glass; he settled for a lantern flame instead.



THE WORLD

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'Hague is looking like a man with *the label "Caretaker"round his neck'

By Andrew Grice and COLIN BROWN

TONY BLAIR was the one who entered the Commons chamber with trepidation at 2.55pm on Wednesday for his weekly joust with William Hague at Prime Minister's Questions. He was convinced one issue would dominate the session: Whether Britain would be forced to sign up to a common tax policy throughout the EU.

This was a gift for Mr Hague: Exaggerated reports in Eurosceptic papers that Britain could lose its freedom over tax had been given credibility by Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, who called on Tuesday for Britain's veto to be scrapped. "We were on the ropes; we expected six questions ... on tax. We couldn't believe what happened," said a member of Mr Blair's team.

Instead of attacking on Europe, Mr Hague sought to preempt the announcement to be made shortly in the Lords by the independent crossbench peers - that they had brokered a consensus plan for Lords reform acceptable to all parties. Mr Hague hoped that, by at-tacking Mr Blair's U-turn on removing all the hereditaries at once, it would be the Prime Minister who was on the defensive. He feared that, if he had raised the Euro-tax issue in the Commons, the Tories would have been on the back foot on Lords reform, as Mr Blair welcomed the crossbenchers' initiative and he rejected it.

Whatever his reasoning, even some loyalists in his shad ow Cabinet privately concede the strategy fell apart. Publicly, they backed Mr Hague for showing "strong leadership" by sacking Lord Cranborne for negotiating with Mr Blair behind Mr Hague's back. But, as the rebellion by Tory peers spread yesterday, MPs were wondering whether Mr Hague had made a catastrophic error by removing the popular Lord Cranborne, Insiders suggested a parting of the ways with him was inevitable. Some sources the Bill bringing in proportional representation for European Parliament elections and once over a separate dispute with Liam Fox, the Hague ally who is the party's spokesman on constitutional affairs.

But by firing Lord Cranborne Mr Hague has unwittingly widened the divide



William Hague leaving Conservative Central Office yesterday. His aides insist that he is unfazed by the brouhaha over his sacking of Lord Cranborne

ways a difference of view," said one peer "Cranborne ... treated Hague like the gardener on his estate. He used to say, Let Hague deal with it, as if he was one of his staff. That is the difference between the Tory hereditaries and the Tory leader. They think he is too

Mr Hague's higgest sin, say Tory opposition in the Lords to change his line on this during a grilling by Jeremy Paxman on BBC2's Newsnight on Wednesday.

lower middle-class."

hours earlier was now a con-

pose the crossbenchers' reform plan. The more immediate problem was Mr Hague knew he would have trouble finding a credible leader of his Lords team to succeed Lord Cranborne if he insisted on opposing the consensus plan.

Lord Strathchyde, who offered his resignation with the rest of the Lords frontbench Tory critics, was to accept the team, struck a deal with Mr Tory peers. But they were not main elements of the deal Lord Hague by which he would be-Cranborne had been negotiat- come leader only on condition said he had threatened to re- ing. Some shadow ministers he could back the cross- she was jumping ship to the sign twice - once over Mr. could hardly believe their eyes benchers' plan. "Hague was as they watched Mr Hague so desperate he had to give way," said a Tory source. "But fair, she said: "If you a leader it didn't look so good in the cold of a party you must consider all light of day. Everyone was asking why Cranborne had to be to do that, you are not the per-For once, Mr Paxman cannot sacked if the deal was acceptclaim the credit. The reason an able." Privately, Mr Hague agreement that was unaccept- knew his hopes of containing able in the Commons seven the rebellion would be dashed.

Lord Fraser, Lord Crancession to be pocketed was borne's deputy, had told him simple. Mr Hague knew he late on Wednesday he would re- the crossbench peers and said would face a massive Lords re- sign out of loyalty to Lord Cran- he was turning some Tories

mons and Lords. "There was al- bellion if he ordered them to op- borne, and announced his de- away, asking them to think out of tune with an increasingcision yesterday.

There was worse to come: three more frontbenchers could not contain their anger-Lord Bowness (environment and transport); Lord Pilkington (education) and the Earl of Home (trade and industry).

Some peers were reassured by the soothing words of Lord Strathclyde at a meeting of enough for Baroness Strange. a backbencher, who announced crossbenches. Criticising the views. If you are not prepared

She may not be the only Tory peer to resign and join the crossbenches. Lord Weatherill, the former Tory speaker of the Commons, is the convener of carefully before taking such a

The fiasco of the past 48 hours has renewed speculation at Westminster about whether Mr Hague will be ousted as leader before the next general election. As one Tory MP said, he looked like a leader with a "caretaker" sign hanging over

his neck. However, there is no permanent fixture waiting in the held. "We are stuck with him." wings to take over. Michael Portillo and Chris Patten can-night. Mr Hague's aides insist not run because they are out of he is unfazed by all the criti-Parliament Kenneth Clarke is cism. But the strains were

ly Eurosceptic party.

Whatever the growing rumblings against Mr Hague, be would be extremely difficult to dislodge. To force a leadership contest, a group of anti-Hague rebels would have to get the signatures of 20 per cent of the party's MPs to request an election, and Mr Hague would then have to lose a vote of confidence before a contest were actually a Tory grandee moaned last

showing last night. Francis Mande, the shadow Chancellor was in tetchy mood in a BBC radio interview in which he insisted: "Mr Hague is not going

to go. He is decisively leader of

the party." It sounded like the

proverbial vote of confidence in

the football club's manager just before he is sacked. And last night there were growing numbers of Tory MPs - as well as peers - who grudgingly admitted Mr Blair's favourite taunt was right: Mr Hague is someone who gets every major strategic decision

with the first the second of t

TWO DAYS OF TORY TRAUMA

Mid-morning: Lord Cranborne telephones William Hague to confess that he has been negotiating behind the Tory leader's back.

Lunchtime: Cranbome meets with Tory front bench peers and secures their support. 3pm: Hague "reveals" Tony Blair's deal with Cranborne at Prime Minister's question time but it backfires on the Tory

5.30pm: Hague calls for but they back Cranborne by four to one after a two-hour

6.30pm: Hague sacks Cranborne during a one-hour

7.30pm: Cranborne holds a outrageously.. but I would do the same again," he says.

Yesterday

8.10am: Hague on the ropes on BBC Radio Four Today programme after Tory MP Alan Clark says it was a 'serious situation". 10.30am: Lord Fraser, Lord Cranborne's deputy, confirms that he has resigned from the front bench, followed by three other frontbenchers.

11.02am: Hague appoints Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish as the new deputy leader of the Opposition in the Lords and Lord Henley as new chief

12pm: Hague sends a letter to Blair warning that the deal will not stop Tory guerrilla warfare.

2pm: In Committee Room 4 of the House, Lord Strathclyde makes an appeal for loyalty to a packed meeting of Tory hereditary peers.

2.27pm: Three other Opposition front bench spokesmen in the Lords guit -Lord Bowness, Lord Pilkington and the Earl of Home, the son of the former prime minister Alec Douglas-Home.

3.30pm: Lord Strathclyde in his first speech as Opposition leader in the Lords, says the Tories will lick their wounds but return 'Hvdra-like". 3.44pm: Baroness Strange. hereditary peer, confirms she cross benches.

Lords hallways become a catwalk to survival

FOUR FAVOURED TO SURVIVE

VISCOUNT

Robert Cecil's family

motto, Late But In

hour decision to

deal on House of

Lords reform.

LORD MELCHETT

50 one of the

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Earnest, could apply to his fateful 11th-

Government's peace

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£100 for speeding In 1983

Peter Mond, the 4th

Baron Melchett, is at

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The heir to the Marquessate of

an MP in the 1980s, he got so bored

that he sneaked off to briefly join the

Vital statistics: Fast-lane driver, fined

Salisbury is no dry Parliamentarian. As

CRANBORNE

Two Who WON'T

EARL OF CARNARYON A highly popular and able crossbencher, the seventh Earl of Carnaryon was a leading architect of the deal on House of Lords reform that

split the Tories. Educated at Eton and a former lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards, Henry Herbert is described by colleagues as "a truly solid chap". His friendship with the Queen led him to

become her racing manager in 1969. Vital statistic: Thoroughbred Breeders Association 1964-66.

LORD AVEBURY Quirky could easily be one of the middle names of Eric Reginald Lubbock, the 4th Baron of Avebury and 7th Baronet of Lammas. The Liberal

Democrat peer, 70, is warmly regarded by his colleagues for his commitment to human rights issues, yet no amount of gravitas can shake off his reputation as a maverick.

Vital statistic: One of few peers to have worked for Rolls-Royce rather than to have owned one.



Labour's hereditary peer beauty stakes. He was a bright young minister in James Callaghan's government.

The executive director of Greenpeace UK, he can fairly claim an Interest in animals to rival any real Miss England.

party on pop festivals 1975-76.

Vital statistic: Chalrman, working



by Kilroy for his friendship with Myra Hindley, Francis Longford, 93, is likely to be a vicom of Labour's mass

hereditaries. Lord Longford has had a remarkable career stretching back to chief assistant to Sir William Beveridge in 1941. He marked his 90th birthday by admitting he was a regular reader of The Sun, which him "the loopy lord". Vital statistic: First Lord of the Admiralty, May-October 1951.

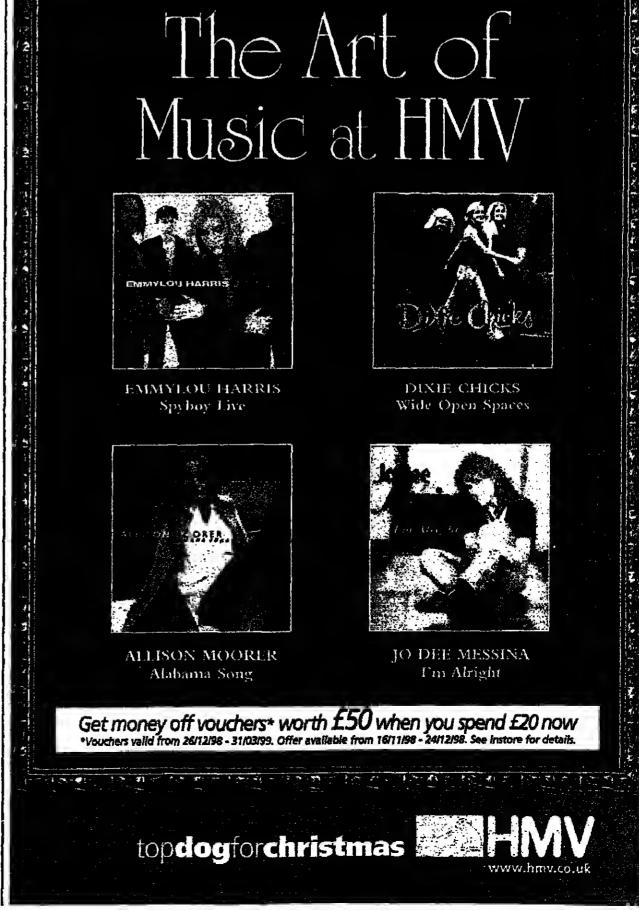
MARQUESS OF BATH

The 7th Marquess of Bath is one of the most striking contestants in the race to stay on the red benches. Aged 66, he is fond of all things Sixties, from



barefoot attire to Jacuzzis and a "kiss-Ing couch" in his ancestral home. Is head of Longleat estate and its lions. Vital statistic: "Tarzan room" houses his children at Longleat. Father embraced fascism and had large collection of Hitlerania, still on display at the home.





THE HISTORIC Lords compromise worked out between Tony Blair, Lord Cranborne and the Crossbenchers means that each party in the Upper House will decide which hereditary peers are to survive.

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

behind closed doors over the past few weeks, 91 peers will be retained as part of a first stage of reform ahead of their even-Under the formula devised thal abolition. Each party will be themselves to make the selec- perate to hold on to their seats.

cording to its strength in the Lords, leaving the Tories with 42, Labour two, Liberal Democrats three and Cross-

able to select survivors action it is likely that the most popular and colourful characters will win the day.

The next few weeks will see the thickly carpeted hallways of the Lords turned into a catwalk As it will be up to the peers for those titled hopefuls desEducation: Blunkett offers package of incentives to help solve growing recruitment crisis in schools | Crisis for

High-flying teachers get boost in pay

GOOD SCHOOLTEACHERS BY JUDITH JUDD will be able to earn an extra £2,000 a year in return for working lunger hours, the Government annunced yesterday.

They will be expected to take training courses nutside term time, and snme highflying teachers could lose up to six weeks' holiday under proposals for the higgest shake-up in the teaching profession for 50

Under the new scheme, annnunced by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, all teachers will be offered a new proficiency test. If they pass, they will break through the present £23,000 pay ceiling for classroom teachers and chuld earn up th £35,000.

Mr Blunkett wants in ease a growing recruitment crisis by convincing graduates that teaching is a career with a future. He said: "For the first time in years, a commitment to invest in and reward teachers in return for a new professinnalism is nn nffer."

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' uninn, said that the performance-related pay scheme smacked of "cronyism and discrimination". The union has threatened strike action if pay is linked to exam results.

About £1bn will be spent on the scheme in its first two years: 2000 and 2001. The mnney will go tn highperforming schools and individual teachers, and will depend, at least in part, on pupils' results. Some £60m will be given to heads of schools that show a constant improvement in exam results to give as bonuses to their best staff.

The hulk will gn to individual teachers and will depend on a tough new appraisal system. Heads will assess teachers'

AND BEN RUSSELL

THE MAIN POINTS

£2,000 a year extra for good classroom teachers whn pass thugh appraisal

■£1bn for performancerelated pay nver two years

■ Schools that show cnnsistent improvement to share £60m in bonuses

Heads, backed by external assessnrs, to decide whn gets more, based nn

High-flying head teachers to earn up to £70,000

pupils' results. External assessors will monitor decisions. The paper insists, however, that this is nn crude system of "payment by results".

Thuse whn pass the test will receive an immediate pay rise of 10 per cent - up to £2,000. Mr Blunkett said that he expected most teachers would eventually qualify. At present just over half of the 440,000 schoolteachers are at or helow the £23,000 pay

All teachers will continue to receive annual cost-of-living increases and national agreements nn teachers' wnrking hours and bnlidays will remain.

Ministers are to consult on whether teachers who earn the extra mnney should have "different, more demanding contracts", but it is clear that these teachers will be expected to take training courses to update their skills outside school hours.

Fast-track graduates, who performance, based partly on years instead of the usual

seven, will be expected to give up between four and six weeks of their holidays. They will also be used as "flying squads" to support failing schools.

There will be a new leadership scale for heads, who will be able to earn up to £70,000 a year Doug McAvoy, the NUT gen-

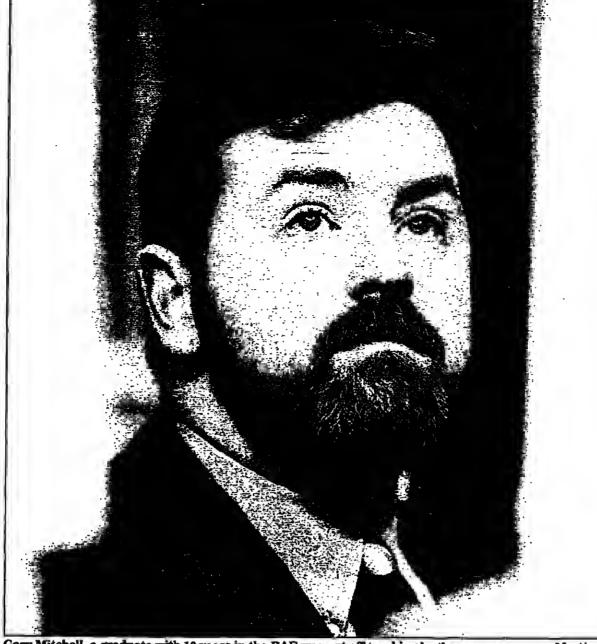
eral secretary, said: "Whilst a package of measures is needed to address the recruitment crisis the professinn now faces, the Government's emphasis on payment by results through performance-related pay will not achieve that and will be rejected by the profession. Any PRP is open to cronyism and discrimination."

But Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, accused teachers' leaders of heing dinosaur-brained". He said: There are only going to be two people who like this: the Government and local government No one else will like it. That probably means it's a gnod

We want the teaching unions to cast off any idea of strike action because it's a very good package for teachers. Most teachers want an exciting profession. If they want to be up with industry, their conditions of service must reflect it."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that the proposals "deserve serious consideration". He said: "Goals cannot be scored by standing on the touchline. It is essential that teachers' organisations get stuck in and obtain a new pay structure which properly rewards the many good teachers in the profession.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Assnciatinn of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, will reach £23,000 in four or five gave the paper a guarded



Gary Mitchell, a graduate with 10 years in the RAF, was put off teaching by the poor pay

Paying the price for experience

FORMER FLIGHT Lieutenant BY BEN RUSSELL Gary "Mitch" Mitchell is the answer to David Blunkett's prayers. He is a trained design and technology teacher - one of the areas where there is an acute shortage of applicants of any kind - let alone good grad-

uates with experience.

Mr Mitchell, 36, has a good egree and 17 years' experience in the RAF, working on electrical systems on air force Phantoms, Nimrods and Harriers across the world. He firmly believes teaching is the job for him. But when Mr Mitchell grad-

uated from Nottingham Trent University earlier this year, he could find no school willing to pay for his experience. Faced with the prospect of a

graduate's £14,000 a year salary, which would only rise to £23,000 after seven year's experience. Mr Mitchell turned his back on schools and started looking for a job in industry. British Aerospace snapped

him up. Mr Mitchell is now preparing to train Saudi air force staff in aircraft maintenance. The salary: £33,000 a

Mr Mitchell, who has twn children, said: "I do feel I have sold out for the materialistic world and it does make me feel a little guilty.

When I was in the RAF I was involved in the Air Training Corps. There was a big sense of achievement when the kids were achieving things. I thought I would get the same sense of satisfaction from teaching.

"I gave up £25,000 when I left the air force. I knew I could go

into industry and get a job pay-ing £20,000 or more straight away. I could have afforded to start on £14,000 but I would have struggled. There needs to be a more flexible pay structure and help to recreate the profession as it was years ago.

When I said I was training to be a teacher, people said what do you want to do that

"It is not all about money. We need a teaching profession with status and a bit of kudos. I did not want to feel ashamed to say I was a teacher."

the man who ate Christmas

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BY LUCIE MORRIS

A MAN who has eaten Christmas dinner every day for the past five years is gning on a diet after gaining almost four stone. Forty-one-year-old Andy

Park is seeking "urgent" medical advice on ways to combat his addiction to an all-day menu nf festive treats, which includes mince pies, roast turkey and sherry. He now weighs 16 stone. "I love living Christmas every day but I have got so big that I know I need help.

"I just want to cut down; there's no way I can give it all up altogether," Mr Park said

The self-employed electri-cian, from Melksham, Wiltshire, first put up Christmas decorations during the summer nf 1993 to "cheer himself up".

He now spends over £300 a week on Christmas food and at 3pm every day, watches a video nf the Queen's speech. He wraps three presents for himself each night and leaves them under the tree in his lounge.

Each year, Mr Park cnnsumes 104 turkeys, 200 tins of Quality Street and 260 Christmas puddings. He buys cutprice Christmas goodies in January and makes deals with his local hutcher for cheap turkeys, which he cooks every three days. "Brussel sprouts are my favourite. I could eat bowls of them," he said.

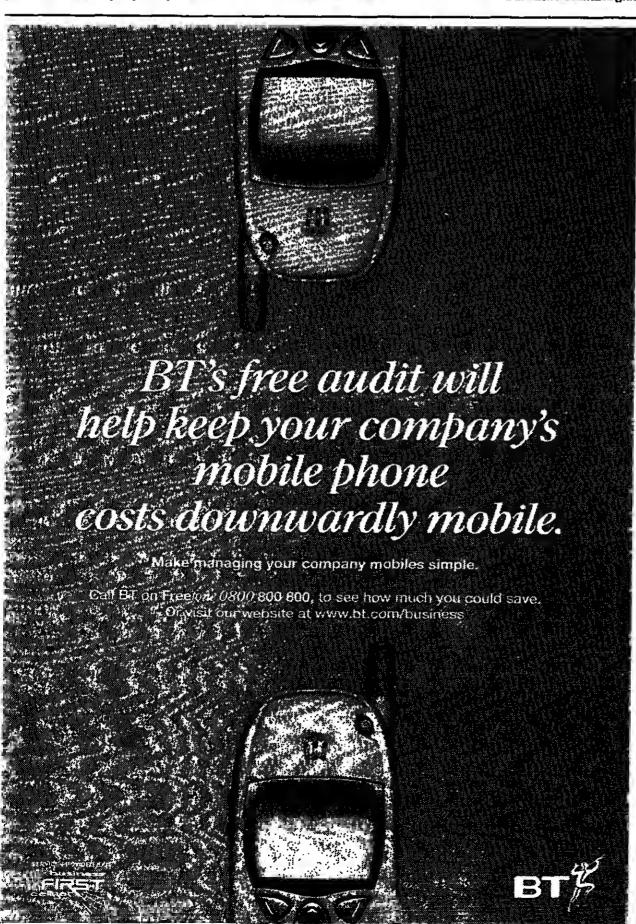
His daily menu includes: Breakfast: Two mince pies, nne bowl nf Christmas pudding and nrange juice.

Mid-morning: Three mince pies and a glass of sherry. Lunch: Turkey sandwich and chocolates.

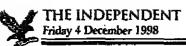
Afternoon; More mince pies and a glass of champagne. Dinner: Roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings and

Christmas pudding. A spokeswoman for Weightwatchers urged Mr Park to join his local slimming group, saying he needed to eat a more "balanced diet".

If Mr Park - who is hoping for singing stardom with a song about his unusual hobby, called "The Christmas Man" - starts dieting now, he could be back to his original weight by the millennium, she added.







*peace bid left on the brink

STALEMATE WAS snatched By DAVID MCKITTRICK from the jaws of victory in the Northern Ireland peace process yesterday as a chance nf making significant progress unravelled at the last mnment.

Although all the signs are that agreement on the issues of and cross-border bodies will eventually be reached, serious slippage now seems inevitable the Good Friday Agreement.

The difficulty emerged in the late afternoon when First to study the papers that are fi-Minister David Trimble's Ulster nally agreed". The sudden Unionist Party announced that much more work was needed and this was unlikely to be concluded before the middle of this month.

This declaration dashed the hnpes of Tony Blair and most of the other Northern Ireland parties that an agreement could be wrapped up by last night. Mr Blair had earlier spent seven hours in talks with the Stormont parties, which went on until 2am yesterday.

Until lunchtime yesterday the prevailing view at Stormont was that only details remained to worked out before agreement was reached on the new administration's departmental structures and on new institutions to link north and

said: "I do not expect any conclusion tonight nor tomorrow and possibly well into next

Ireland Currespondent

week. I think we should all relax. It's going very nicely."

He added that, with Mr Trimble scheduled to fly to Washington today, there was litnew government departments the chance of having things finalised until his return oo 14 December. A meeting of the Assembly is possible on that date, in the timetable envisaged in Mr Taylor said, but "it then will require a few weeks for Assembly members to have time change of mood and timetable raised suspicions of Ulster Unionist backbenchers unhappy with the emerging deal.

The Assembly is due to receive devolved powers in February, hut this will require the passage of primary legislation through Westminster. The legislative process cannot start, however, until the shape of the new arrangements has been settled by the parties.

The Sinn Fein presideot, Gerry Adams, said; "There has been some measure of progress reached and now some people are in denial and seeking to move backwards. There is a moral and political responsibility on David Trimble as First Minister to conclude on all of these matters before he leaves."

Even before Mr Taylor's in-But in the afternoon Mr tervention, the Rev Ian Pais-Trimble's party deputy, John ley's Democratic UnionIst Taylor, emerged after a meet- Party bad denounced the ing of Unionist Assembly mem- emerging new arrangements bers to dispel hopes that a as a cave-in and a retreat, resolution was imminent. He adding: "Most Unionists will find this utterly undemocratic. totally unfair and completely unacceptable.

Ulster's 'Mutineer' crew's tales of drink and sex

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Members of the Atlantic Endeavour crew plan a second attempt at the record for rowing the Atlantic ... without captain Roy Finlay

CREW MEMBERS who jumped ship during a calamitous attempt to row the Atlantic are considering suing the skipper. whom they say hranded them

At a press conference in Glasgow yesterday, nine of the crew of the Atlantic Endeavour criticised the aggressive manner and poor seamanship of Roy Finlay, 36, and accused him of endangering their lives.

The 14 men and two women,

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

part in the challenge, have demanded their money back. "We want an apology of cowards and mutineers. some form and financial compensation would be appreciated," said crew member Patrick Kendell,

"Roy Finlay said we didn't have the stomach for it and weren't physically fit enough. That is a total lie. The only per-

cally and mentally up to the trip was the captain." The crew claims that during

the voyage, life jackets remained unpacked during their 700 miles at sea, no manoverboard drill was practised and the captain nrdered navigation lights to be turned off.

We were in essence trusting our lives to Roy Finlay," said James Nye. 30, a policeman from Exeter. "We appreciate it was a risky trip but we didn't exwho paid £5,000 each to take son who we feel wasn't physipect the captain to fall short."

The final straw came after the 10-ton boat docked at San Vincente, in the Cape Verde Islands, with generator trouble. According to the crew, Mr Finlay used their money to get in 1992.

"Our concern regarding the woman wasn't that he was with her," said Mr Nye, "but that we were meant to be doing a quick turn around and going back to sea. Roy Finlay was in bed with this female and no work was being dooe to repair the boat."

drunk and pay for a prostitute.

The rowers had trained for 12 months with the aim of beating the record of 35 days and eight hours for an Atlantic crossing set by a French team

After taking 16 days from the Canaries and with another 2,000 miles to go to Barbados, a record was out of the question when they struggled into Cape Verde on 16 November. Too late, they realised the Endeavour was heavy and

Finlay suggested putting up a sail hut was reminded it was a rowing attempt.

The picture that emerged yesterday was of early misgivings about Mr Finlay being overwhelmed by the desire for an egn-boosting adventure. The crew is already talking of trying again next year, but with a different skipper.

Neither the crew our Mr Finlay's father, Bnb, contact man for the expedition, know oot really built for rowing. Mr in the skipper's whereabouts.

Murder conviction is sent to Appeal Court

found guilty of murdering an 84-year-old woman is to be referred back to the Court of Appeal after a damning report

on the police investigation. The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) is sending the case of Brian Parsons for reconsideration after a year-long inquiry by the Hampshire force into the actions of Devon and

BY LOUISE JURY

Cornwall officers. The commission concluded that evidence from John Essery, the senior officer in the case and now assistant chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, misled the jury at Parsons' trial. The work of the forensic scientist, Dr John Whiteside, was condemned as "manifestly unsat-

isfactory" and liable to "impugn his integrity as a professinnal expert prosecution witness".

Brian Parsons was convicted 10 years ago of the murder in 1987 of Ivy Batten, 84, who was beaten to death at her home in Shute, Devon.

The Hampshire review found that 160 instances of information, some of which undermined

Stephen Nunn, his solicitor, said yesterday that the police had gone to great lengths" to suppress the information.

from Parsons' defence team.

Prosecution evidence included fibres, from gloves used in the attack, which were found in Parsons' car and a jacket. But the review found clues linking the gloves to a burglar who was the police case, were withheld questioned about the case.

Mr Nunn said that if it hadn't been for media involvement in the case, "we wouldn't have got this far". He thanked the press, particularly Westcountry Television and Channel 4's Trial

and Error, for their help. From his prison cell, Parsons said: "It is just magic ... I feel sorry for the rest of the Batten family, but I can assure them I did not kill anybody.

A Devon and Cornwall police spokesman said they had carried out three internal reviews into the case and reported to the Home Office. They had assisted Hampshire in every way.

Stephen Phelps, producer of Trial and Error, said: "The question has to be asked - how did the fibres come to be in Brian Parsons' car and the pocket of a jacket he used?"









MARKS & SPENCER

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Gates joins the great US giveaway

BANDAVID USBORNE AND KIM SENGUPTA

BILL GATES might be feeling a little sour about the response in America to his announcement this week that he and his wife, Melinda, are to donate \$100m to help to speed the delivery of vaccines to children in developing countries. Mildly impressed, might best characterise it.

That there is a sense of cynicism about this latest bounty from the Gates software fortune may have to do with the trial under way m Washington DC. The mighty Microsoft is accused of breaking the rules to squeeze out rivals in the computer industry. What better time to display generosity than when the Microsoft brand is being battered from left and right?

All Americans understand that giving away money is not always the altruistic act it seems. For every charitable donation, the giver can expect giant tax benefits. Shell out \$1hn (£600m) and your deductions will be worth \$600m.

Above all, it is a matter of expactations. In a tradition that s established by the industrial barons of the turn of the century, such as the steel giant wealthy of American are under

an unwritten ohligation to give. Until recently, indeed, Mr know what to do with - thanks Gates was suffering criticism to a seven-year boom in the that he was not doing enough to ensure the spread of his booty. When Ted Turner, founder of CNN, created a foun- at a record pace. Last year, the dation to benefit the United Nations worth \$1hn last year, he



Bill Gates, slow by US standards to give money to charity, hands over computers worth \$100m to children in Chicago

Jonathan Kirn/Gama

challenged Mr Gates to speed up his charitable donations. This is an era where giving

in America is reaching un-Andrew Carnegie, the very precedented heights. As more and more Americans find they have more money than they economy and a meteoric stock market - private charitable foundations are being created value of charitable donations

which stands at \$8trillion. It technology to libraries in poorhelps that there are 200 hillionaires in the US today.

Gates has promised eventually to give away 90 per cent of whatever fortune he accumulates. His philanthropy so far is directed through two foundations. The William H Gates Foundation, established in 1994, is directed at giving to multiple causes such as education and healthcare. Last year he also set up the Gates Library Founreached 2 per cent of US GDP dation to provide computer

er neighbourhoods.

The same culture of tycoons emhracing philanthropy does not appear to exist in Britain, according to those involved in fund-raising for charities and the arts. There are, of course, exceptions. Vivien Duffield, daughter of the entrepreneur Charles Clore, has given away almost £90m to medical charities, the arts and education. And John Paul Getty, American born hut a British citizen since

last year, was given a knighthood in recognition of the £120m he has handed out.

In October Peter Lampl, who made his money in the equity markets, announced prep schools would be given £40m by his charity, the Sutton Trust. We now also have the Rupert Murdoch chair of communications at Worcester, Oxford; Sir John Moores University in Liverpool; and the Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery.

But Mark Thorne, of Wealth-

Toborns Price Check - If you find this same offer chapter booky and notify us within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the

watch, which monitors donations by the rich in Britain, said: The Americans get a great

deal of kudos and prestige from

the act of large donations, In

Britain the wealthy are almost

shy of such publicity." Paul Brown, of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, hlames the difference in tax systems. "In America the tax system is positively geared towards encouraging donations. Here it is just too

TOP TEN DONORS

1. Ted Turner - \$1bn (£625m) (U5). Founder of CNN, Turner is now vicechairman of Time Warner, the world's biggest media conglomerate. Married to the actress Jane Fonda.



2. Kathryn Albertson - \$660m (£412.5m) (US). Late husband loe founded Albertson's supermarket chain, the US equivalent of Salnsbury's.

3. George Soros - \$540m (£337.5m) (U5). Highly successful international currency speculator, currently based in New York. His interests include the legalisation of cannabis for medical purposes.



4. Bill Gates - \$210m (£131m) (U5). Owner of Microsoft, Gates is fighting the U5 government over his firm's alleged monopoly status.

5. Leonard Abramson – \$100m (£62.5m) (U5). Founder of US Healthcare, the US hospital network, which he sold in 1996. He funds cancer research.

6. Michael and Jane Eisner \$89m (£55.6m) (US). He is chair and CEO of the Walt Disney Corporation, one of world's biggest entertainment companies. Particularly concerned with helping underprivileged children in southern California.



7. Mitchell Wolfson Jr - \$75m (£47m) (US). Fortune from father's entertainment company. Collects historical nemorabilia and has early braille edition of Mein Kompf.

8. Phyllis Wattls - \$70m (£44m) (U5). The 92-year-old great grand-daughter of Brigham Young, rounder of the polygamist Morman Church. She directs much of her charitable effort towards the support of museums.

9. Peter Lampl - \$64m (£40m) (UK). Sole Briton on the list, on strength of his charitable donations in past year.

10. Raymond Nasher - \$50m (£31m) (U5). Dallas property developer, 75. Supports foundation dedicated to building a museum - to house his own art collection.

Most stores open Suna

Doctor on two more charges

HAROLD SHIPMAN, a general practitioner who faces six murder charges, appeared in court again yesterday charged with killing two more female patients.

The 52-year-old GP from Hyde, Greater Manchester, appeared before magistrates in Azhton-under-Lyne charged n murdering Jean Lilley, 59, and Irene Turner, 67.

The bodies of the two women were exhumed last month for post-mortem examinations.

Mrs Lilley died at her home in Hyde on 25 April last year and Mrs Turner at her home on 11. July 1996.

Dr Shipman, of Tameside, who runs a one-man practice in Hyde, was remanded in custody until Monday. The bodies of nine female

pahents have now been exhumed as part of an investigation by Greater Manchester

Pesticide link to breast cancer

Suspect questioned over rapes

DETECTIVES HUNTING a serial rapist who has struck across at least four counties were questioning a

London traffic slows to a trot

in the horse-drawn era of 100 years ago, according to official figures published yesterday. Traffic speeds in inner and evening peaks, to 12mph and 11.4mph.

Neighbours shun estate agents

ing to a survey published yesterday. Just 1 per cent of homeowners surveyed by NatWest Mortgage Services wanted an estate agent living next door. The most popular neighbour's occupation was a doctor.



CHEMICALS FOUND in pesticides may increase the risk of

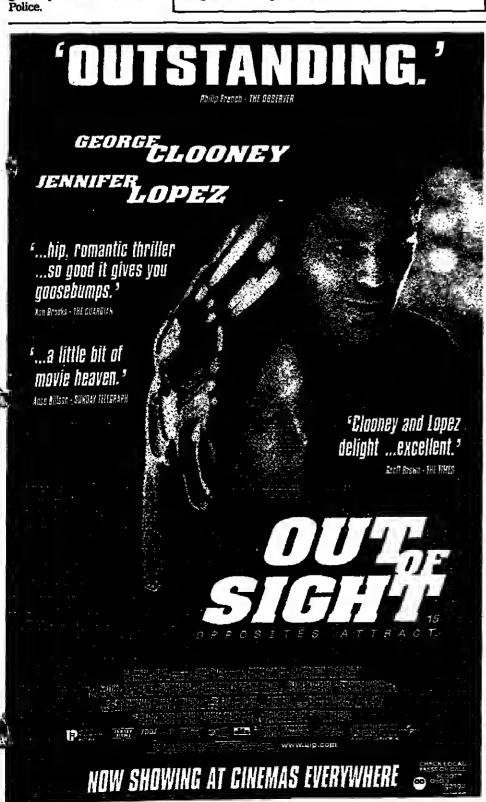
breast cancer when women are exposed to high doses, says a report in The Lancet. A study from Denmark that analysed blood from more than 200 women with breast cancer found that a pesticide, dieldrin, was "associated with a significantly dose-related risk of breast cancer".

34-year-old man in Northampton yesterday. Advances in DNA profiling had allowed officers in Northamptonshire to link a series of rapes in the county to other attacks, in Warwickshire and the Thames Valley.

TRAFFIC IN central London now moves as slowly as it did London - the area between two and five miles of Waterloo Bridge - have slowed by 1.5mph since 1995 in the morning In central London average speeds have fallen to 10mph.

ESTATE AGENTS are the least popular neighbours accord-





THE INDEPENDENT

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Departing hero leaves House with a happy hangover

terday - Conservative MPs in that mood of crapulous irritability that often follows unwise indulgence and Labour MPs happy to remind them of how foolish they had looked when they had been discovered handcuffed to a House of Lords lamppost with their trousers round their ankles.

In the Upper Chamber, Lord Strathclyde confessed that his party "had taken some hard blows" but it didn't look like it, frankly, with great waves of amiability wafting from both sides. Lord Cranborne himself, the instigator of Wednes-

THERE WAS a slightly morning-after feeling in the Commons yes-it off somewhere, but his ears will have been glowing - Tory peers didn't quite sing "For be's a jolly good fellow" when tributes were paid to him, but there was no sense of resentful obligation in the ceremonies of farewell.

Margaret Jay confided in peers that she and the exiled hero had had extremely personal relations", a choice of phrase that clearly made the blood pulse dangerously through some sclerotic arteries. Lord Strathclyde, as cheerfully urbane in his elevation as Lord Cranborne had been in his fall, expressed his hope that this appealing close-

ness might continue under his lead-ership. If they were feeling the effects of the previous night, in short, then it was one of those delicious champagne hangovers - all benevolence, with the bubbles of excitement still rising in the blood.

Naturally, Labour MPs shared some of that continuing buzz happy, after their own bumiliation on Tuesday, to have an opportunity for retaliation so soon. This time it was circumstance that had written their lines for them, rather than Millbank. Was Mr Mandelson expecting a question from the other House relating to unfair dismissal, asked one backbencher, archly?

THE SKETCH

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

John Battle concluded a testy reply from the front bench by saying that he wasn't really surprised at

the level of the questioning since the Conservatives "aren't even capable press reports suggesting that his

of joined-up opposition any more".
"I'm tempted to ask him whether he's cleared his questions with the leader," teased Mr Mandelson, as be dodged a precise interrogation from John Redwood about the euro, Tory members scowled as these preprepared missiles dropped around them. They had been obliged to guip down something far rougher and less forgiving the previous night, a bitter plank distilled from Bulgarian tractor fuel and grape waste, and

it had left them decidedly snappish. On another day Mr Mandelson would have had a much harder

press reports suggesting that his fingerprints had been found all over a sizeable donation to the Millennium Dome. Since Mr Mandelson had promised a hands-off policy with regard to procuring soonsorship be was invited by Graham Brady to apologise for misleading the House. Naturally be

declined, but murmurs of protest

from Tory backbenchers had no real

force to them. They didn't want a lot

of noise, they just wanted to lie down somewhere in a darkened room. They couldn't even find it in themselves to enjoy Dennis Skinner. who almost always acts as a kind of

during Millennium Dome questions to propose that its contents should include a fund-raising prehistoric section. For a small fee, be suggested, children could have their pictures taken with ermine-clad bereditary peers, and maybe Baby Dome - a respectful reference to the Tory leader - would act as a celebrity tour guide. Mr Mandelson grinned and said he would look into the possibility of a Cranborne Memorial as part of the Millennium. No wonder he looked happy, if even Mr Skinner thinks this is a laughing matter, the Government can afford to open another bottle right away.

Cook rules out tax unity for Europe

THE GOVERNMENT is to TAXATION fight plans to end the national veto over tax harmonisation by seeking the co-operation of other sceptical member states, Rohin Cook said yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary jority among countries to scrap the present system of unanimity required to introduce greater tax harmonisation.

"It is not just Britain but many member states who will oppose tax harmonisation," he said, opening a debate on the European Union, ahead of the forthcoming European Sum-

Earlier the Prime Minister's official spokesman said that Austria, Sweden, Finland, Den-duties, the added: "And where mark, Ireland and Greece were also opposed to ending the national veto on a common tax

The Government is appointing an extra 33 officials to are of benefit to Britain we the European Union to improve co-operation between Britain and member states.

Dismissing the "myths and mischiefs" that had been "peddled as facts", he said: "There is no majority for the harmonisation of tax rates in Europe,

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

never mind the unanimity which would be required for any action. Nor is the need for unastressed that there was no manifity going to change. It would require all members of the European Union to agree on a change to qualified majority voting on tax. Most member states will not agree."

He said, however, that Britain would "vigorously support" measures to tackle unfair tax hreaks that distorted free trade or provided an illegitimate industrial subsidy".

Pointing to the need for a there is a British interest in cooperation on tax, we will support it . . . and where there are limited proposals for coordination on tax rules which should support them."

But like "most other member states", the Government During his speech, Robin would resist any moves to har-Cook said that tax harmonisa- monise direct taxation, corpotion was "quite simply not going ration tax and proposals for a European withholding tax on interest on savings.

"The member states of the European Union are going to continue to have tax systems which remain distinctive, even



Robin Cook: No majority for harmonisation of tax'

sometimes eccentric . . . Germany has a special tax on coffee. I can't myself see the French swallowing a tax on coffee." he said.

But Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said that Britain was facing pressure, as Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, had asserted, to move towards a single European state.

"This is a great march towards a single European state and the British Government will have to respond. This is not something the Government can fudge."

Mr Howard said that the

preparing to publish suggestions for a common VAT regime, which put Britain's zero rates at risk and could lead to the introduction of VAT on

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, delivered a fresh blow to Britain in the dispute over tax harmonisation by backing the stance of Mr La-

Mr Schröder's intervention contradicts British claims that Mr Lafontaine had gone out on a limb on Tuesday by suggesting an end to the national veto in taxation policy. In an interview in the Financial Times, Mr Schröder said: "We will never have a complete harmonisation because of differences in countries' tax bases. But I stress that the Finance Minister has the backing of the government when he de-

mands steps in this direction." Mr Lafontaine's view on majority voting was, he said, "not only the personal view of the Finance Minister. It is also the position of the government."

He added: "We know that there are different opinions in Europe but that doesn't mean that it is not sensible in a single market with a single currency to have better tax co-ordination."



The German President, Roman Herzog (centre) admires the ceiling of the Palace of Westminster yesterday with curator of art, Malcolm Hay (right)

John Stillwell

win a shot at statute book BACKBENCHER BILLS By SARAH SCHAEFER

Ten MPs

POLITICAL REPORTER

TEN BACKBENCHERS won an opportunity to introduce legislation on an area of their choice yesterday, when the result of the ballot for Private Members' Bills was announced.

They have until next month to choose a subject. Eric Clarke, MP for Midlothian, has pledged to make it easier for miners and their families to claim compensation for such diseases as hronchitis and eny physema. Gordon Prentice, M for Pendle, and Mark Oaten. MP for Winchester, are considering legislation on the right to roam and the gazumping of bouses respectively.

The Portman Group, which campaigns on hehalf of the drinks industry for a sensible approach to alcohol, said it was looking for one of the MPs to take on a Bill to crack down on alcohol sales to under-18s.

Last year Mike Foster, the Worcester MP tried to hring in a Bill banning fox hunting. It rel ceived cross-party support but ran out of parliamentary time.



Mike Foster's Bill ran out

In the Commons, the senior Labour backbencher Gwyneth Dunwoody, chairman of the influential Transport Select Comof time this year mittee, said the creation of the Strategic Rail Authority would be widely welcomed by "every-

one's constituents" and would produce "some very positive re-The MPs who came top in sults for the whole of Britain". Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, said Eagle during questions on forthcoming parliamentary business "it may well be possible" that the Government would now be able to introduce the authority. "I know that will give you and many MPs considerable plea-

sure," she added. Retailers and consumers are set to welcome the piedge to introduce the Food Standards Agency which was omitted from the Queen's Speech after a dispute between the Treasury and the Ministry of

Agriculture over funding. The Treasury was said to be pressing for the £100 million annual running costs of the agency to be met by a £100 levy on shops and restaurants, but the ministry has argued for it to be paid out of general taxation. At the time, the Consumers' Association said it was "titterly disappointed".

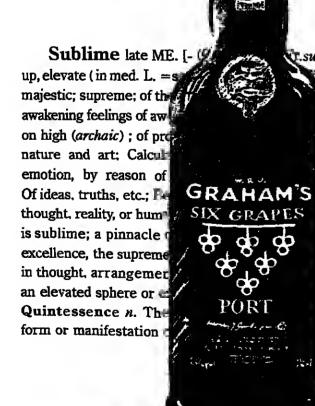
Backbench Bills often risk such a fate unless MPs can secure government support,

the ballot are: Debra Shipley (Lab. Stourbridge), Maria Lab, Liverpool Garston). Eric Clarke (Lah, Midlothian, Andrew Robathan (Con. Blaby), Gordon Prentice (Lah. Pendle). Simon Burns (Con. Chelmsford West), Mark Oaten (Lih Dein, Wincbester), Chris McCafferty (Lab. Calder Valley), Patrick McLoughlin (Con. Derbyshire West) and Christopher Fraser (Con. Dorset Mid and Poole North). An independent Scotland would have to more than douhle the basic rate of income tax to keep pace with current public spending according to a study released today:

The report, hy a firm of London accountants, claims an independent Scotland, taking into account North Sea oil revenues would have a fiscal deficit of £3.9bn. To plug the hole through income tax would mean a rise in the basic rate from 23p to 49p. the report said.

GRAHAM'S

W.&J.



v.sublimer or L. sublimare lift mis;] 1. adj. exalted, lofty; ighest or noblest nature: eration; raised up, lifted ng (literary); Of things in eep reverence, or lofty auty, or grandeur 1700; the highest regions of ty 1634. 2. n. that which chievement, surpassing gree, the lofty or grand. style; 3. n. To raise to piritually) suhlime 1609. urest or most perfect 570. Quintesse-ntial a.

Food and railways head new agenda

By Sarah Schaefer

POLITICAL REPORTER

LEGISLATION TO create a LEGISLATION Strategic Rail Authority and a Food Standards Agency is now likely to be introduced this parliamentary session, following the agreement on the handling of House of Lords reform, ministers said yesterday.

Both manifesto commitments were put on hold because of lack of parliamentary time. And, although the Government committed itself to introducing draft Bills during this session, both were regarded as "missing measures" of the Queen's Speech.

But John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, pledged that both proposals would be introduced as a priority, if legislative time was freed, up as a result of the deal to keep 91 hereditary peers in the Lords, during the interim period between stage one and stage two of the reform.

Mr Prescott said a Strategic Rail Authority would ensure that passengers and freight operators would benefit from the reforms the railways so badly needed. "It will make sure that the

system is run as a network and not just as a collection of dif-

Football break

A THREE-WEEK Christmas

break was announced for

MPs by Commons Leader,

December and return on 11

January. The Lords rises

Commons but returns on

Government Chief Whip,

Lord Carter, making the

will sit on Boxing Day are

because Southampton are

playing Cheisea that day and I intend to be there."

announcement in the

Lords, told peers: "Rumours that the House

Margaret Beckett. The

House will rise on 17

the same day as the

January.

ferent businesses. It will mean an integrated network with the interest of the passengers and freight industry properly safeguarded," he said. The Deputy Prime Minister

Pledge: John Prescott

was taunted by William Hague at the time of the Queen's Speech when it became anparent that none of his proposals would become law in the next session. But Mr Prescott responded by saying that be had more Bills than any other minister and that many of his transport policies could be achieved without legislation.

The House



More for Dome

AN EXTRA £1Sm in sponsorship is expected to be allocated to the Millennium Dome and a further £25m is subject to negotiation. The cash is in completely untrue, not least addition to the £120m sponsorship already

£167m for trams

A SCHEME to tiring trams to Nottingham, the Nottingham Express Transit, is to be given £167m of government funding, Transport minister John Reid announced yesterday.

Eye on imports

THE GOVERNMENT will keep a close eye nn the "dumping" of cheap Third World imports on steel and bicycle manufacturers in Britain. the Small Firms minister. Barbara Roche, promised during question time.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Boost for buyers A LONG-AWAITED shake-up

of tiouse-buying procedures in England and Wales. which is expected to curb "gazumping" by shortening the process, is to be unveiled on Monday, the Housing minister, Hilary Armstrong, said.

Neither House will be sitting today

London promised 'world-class leader'

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

THE DEPUTY Prime Minister, John Prescott, promised "world-class government for a world-class city" yesterday when he published the Government's Bill to create a mayor and assembly for London.

The Greater London Authority Bill will establish Britain's first directly elected mayor, with wide-ranging powers over transport, planning, police and the environment.

Mr Prescott said London's "first citizen", backed and monitored by a 25-member assemhly, will oversee a budget of £3.3bn and have the power to appoint his or her own cabinet.

The mayor will also be able to raise millions of pounds from road pricing and employee carparking charges, the proceeds of which will have to be ploughed back into improving public transport.

Previous estimates have suggested that £400m a year could be raised by charging motorists £8 a day to eoter inner London, monitored by a hitech system of cameras.

Elections for the Greater Londoo Authority, the first selfgovernment for Loodon since the demise of the GLC 12 years ago, will he held by the spring of 2000 at the latest.

This Bill will give power to the people to decide London's future. The Bill will restore London-wide democracy to create a strong mayor with real power to deal with the city's concerns," Mr Prescott said.

To ensure the mayor stays in touch with the electorate, a "People's Question Time" will be held twice a year, with an annual "State of London" debate, he revealed.

A number of key issues were left out of the Bill, however, including the salary for the top post - described only as "substantial" - and exactly when the new authority will take over the control of the London Underground.

Mr Prescott confirmed yesterday that the Tube would not be transferred to the GLA until public-private partnership contracts were finally agreed.

The new authority, which is to be housed in purpose-built offices either in Bloomsbury or by Tower Bridge, will cost £20m to set up and £20m a year to run.

The running costs will be pledged to block any large "taxmet ny a combination of government grants and a 3p-perweek precept on Londoners' council taxes. The precept a majority of elected members. could be used to raise extra ending 167 years of direct confunds, though ministers have trol by the Home Secretary.

SO HOW DO THE CONTENDERS SHAPE UP?



KEN LIVINGSTONE

Former GLC leader, now Labour MP for Brent East, has transformed himself from "Red Ken" to "People's Ken" Pros: Has real experience of running London government

Cons: One voter, based in a family home in Downing Street, determined to see he doesn't get the Labour candidacy Gimmicks: Wants conductors on buses. guards on Tubes, newts in every garden Electability rating: ★★★★ (if he is allowed to stand)

TREVOR PHILLIPS

Broadcaster most famous for joh as pre-

telegenic; reflects London's ethnic make-

Cons: Low voter recognition; friend of

Gimmicks: Ran a "Yes for London" cam-

paign in referendum in May, wholesome

senter of LWT's London Programme

Pros: Well-liked, affable journalist:

up; friend of Peter Mandelson

Peter Mandelson

Electability rating: ★★

The Metropolitan Police will

be run by a policy authority with

young dad



JEFFREY ARCHER

Tory peer and millionaire novelist, former deputy chairman of the Conservatives who has set a breakneck pace in the race for the mayoralty

Pros: Done more hand-shaking, speechgiving and genuine hard work than anyone; loved by Tory blue-rinse brigade Cons: Evening Standard decests him Gimmicks: Own mayoral Internet page: wants to put London on different time zone from Scotland; great mayoral flat Electability rating: ★★★

SIMON HUGHES

Pros: Well-known among Londoners; not

Cons: He may also want to lead the Lih-

eral Democrats when Paddy Ashdown

stands down; is seen by some as too

Glmmicks: "Mr Clean" image

Electability rating: ★★★

Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark

North and Bermondsey; his party's

spokesman on London



TONY BANKS



Former chairman of the GLC during Liv-

ingstone's reign, now Sports minister and East End MP Pros: A genuine Londoner, has brash charisma needed for mayor; likely to pick

Electability rating: ***

Cons: Gaffe-prone, but Jess so recently Gimmicks: Wise-cracking cheeky chappy manner: support for Chelsea FC likely to pit 9/10ths of London against him

up Ken's support among Labour mem-



GLENDA JACKSON

Former double-Oscar winning actress, elected Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate in 1992 and now Transport minister for London Pros: High name-recognition among vot-

ers; current job means she has hands-on experience of most important task facing any incoming mayor Cons: Often perceived as too earnest Gimmicks: Only candidate to boast nude

film appearances Electability rating: ★★★★



STEVEN NORRIS

Former London Transport minister and Tory MP, now heads Road Haulage Association, the truckers' lobby group Pros: Like Ms Jackson, has real experience overseeing the Tube, buses and trains in the capital; businessman who ran successful car sales company Cons: Some voters may remember thereports about his five mistresses Gimmicks: Easy manner of the secondhand car salesman



ROBERT AYLING

Chief executive, British Airways plc, cur-

rently member of several government

Pros: Well-liked by Tony Blair; real husi-

against Virgln and its strike-busting tac-

ness experience at head of a

Cons: BA's "dirty tricks" campaign

tics disliked by Lahour members

Gimmicks: millionaire glamour

multi-national company

Electability rating: **

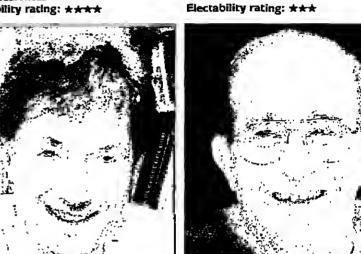
LORD LEVENE

Current Lord Mayor of the City of Lon-

Pros: Only candidate who can actually rlously touted by some senior Tory fig-

Thatcher coats and hats

Electability rating: ★



claim that he has mayoral experience; se-Cons: A former friend of Margaret

Gimmicks: Looks nice in fancy mayoral

Richard Ottaway, shadow solve the city's traffic prob- have they been doing all this but said that his party would is a welcome beginning to the return of London government." are in total disarray as they man, said the Bill gave too he said. "Imperfect London

With more than 270 clauses, sage. Despite the disarray with-

Government wants to give the Bill an early start.

kicked, punched and racially abused by Metropobtan Police officers as a 12-year-old schoolboy was accused yesterday of "indulging in an orgy of lies and distortions" to earn nimself "a

fast buck". Counsel for the police alleged in the High Court that Jermaine Jauvel, now 23, was "an antisocial man, a manipulative man, a scheming man, a dishonest man". Mr Jauvel, a musician who lives in Walworth, south London, is suing the Met-

Sir Paul Condon, for damages arising from his arrest and prosecution for assaulting a police officer in March 1987.

Lewisham, south Loodon.

ropolitan Police Commissioner, he had launched the proceed-

"Clearly the Government's the delays over the part-

privatisation of the Tube and plans for Loodoo Underground said that the proposed congestion charge was a "tax by the back door" that would not deal in place by May 2000. What too few rights to the assembly, London democracy."

JUDITH MAYHEW

As chairman (slc) of City of London's in-

tee, one of the most powerful women in

fluential Policy and Resources Commit-

Pros: Extremely able businesswoman

and lawyer; could offer Tories a credible

Cons: Described by some as "the best

mayor London will never have"

Gimmicks: New Zealander

Electability rating: *

the Square Mile

female candidate

Simoo Hughes, the Liberal Democrats' London spokesdon't think they will have a much power to the mayor and

democracy is better than no

taskforces

piece of legislation this Parliament. Before the recent "civil war" within the Tory party. ministers were worried that the Lords could delay its pas- mons hefore Christmas.

of Ottaway said. support it overall. "The GLA Bill the Bill will he the biggest in the Conservative camp, the

It will receive its second reading in the House of Com-

Man 'lied' about police assault Britain 14th in health league

A MAN who claims he was By KATHY MARKS

He told Mr Justice Pop-

plewell on Wednesday that he was kicked in the face and dropped on the ground by officers during an altercation with a group of schoolchildren at the Riverdale shopping centre in

But yesterday John Beggs, counsel for the police, alleged

ings "in the interests of one thing only your bank balance".
"Did someone suggest to you that suing the Met was a

good idea?" he asked. You have made a series of outrageous allegations against decent police officers.

"You are deliberately playing the race card - you thought that the more serious the allegations, the more likely it would be that the Metropolitan Police, stung by the Lawrence inquiry. would pay up."

Mr Jauvel denied that he had gone to the shopping centre

that afternoon because of rumours that girls from rival local schools were planning a fight.

He also denied that a red bag, in which police found a sixinch hladed knife, belonged to him, although he acknowledged that he had been carrying a

"strikingly similar" bag. Asked about the allegation that he was punched in the face, Mr Jauvel said he could oot remember where the blow landed. "You were oot punched at all; you are making it up as you go along," said Mr Beggs.

The case continues today.

sickly 14th in Europe's new

table of the healthiest countries, beaten not only hy the Nordic countries but by the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece and Slovenia.

High rates of death from cancer and respiratory disease, as well as ahove-average oumbers of Aids cases, mean Britain is ranked nearly halfway down the table.

Swedeo and Norway emerge as the healthiest nations in Europe, while Russia, Latvia and Ukraine are at the bottom

Social Affairs Correspondent of the list compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The unit looked at 14 key health indicators in compiling its report. Health Care Europe. including death rate, life expectancy, childhood mortality, immunisatioo coverage, oumber of Aids cases, death rates from cancer, heart and respi-

ratory diseases and smoking. One of the reasons for the UK's low ranking is unhealthy eating, said the editor of the reto eat a lot more processed food than other countries. But the second reason is the huge and growing disparity between the health of the rich and the poor,

despite a national health ser-

vice. It cannot he explained

exclusively by people turning to private healthcare, as that is still a very small percentage." The UK fares well in indicators such as life expectancy, where it is ranked 8th, but it is 21st wheo it comes to cancer

death rates and only 15th for its

immunisation coverage.

hecause their small populations makes healthcare easier to manage. Mediterranean countries are high on the list because of their healthy diets.

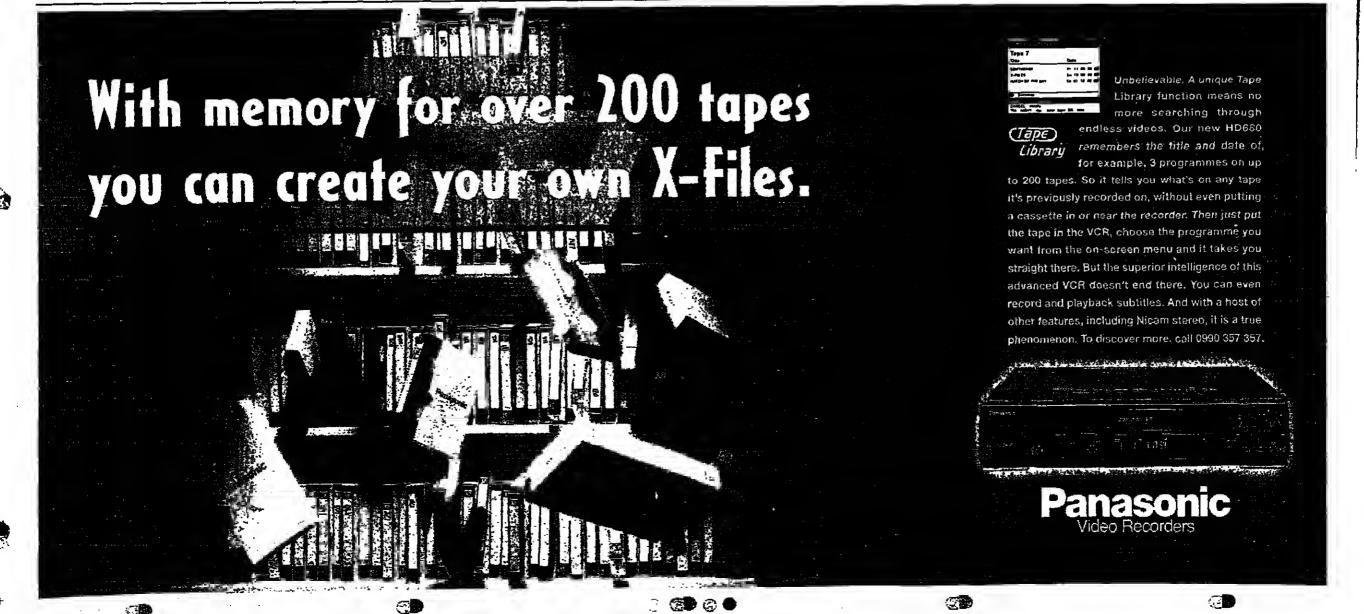
But more surprisingly, countries such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia also do better than the UK because of good immunisatioo programmes and lower rates of cancer. Germany, despite being the

higgest speoder on healthcare

in Europe, comes 16th in the

table, mainly because of prob-

lems since reunification.



Hillsborough police lose damages case

fered severe mental trauma treating dying fans on the pitch at the 1989 Hillsborough football disaster are not entitled to compensation, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In a majority 3-2 decision, the law lords overturned a Court of Appeal judgment in 1996 that the officers should receive damages after being exposed, by the admitted negligence of South Yorkshire Police, to "excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness even in a police officer".

A victory yesterday for the four officers could have helped potential claims by 17 more police officers and members of other emergency services in-volved in the disaster, which killed 96 fans.

But one of the law lords, Lord Hoffman, said: "[The ordinary man] would think it wrong that policemen, even as part of a general class of persons who rendered assistance, should have the right to compensation for psychiatric injury out of public funds while the bereaved relatives are sent away with nothing."

Rose Robinson, of the Hills-

Home Affairs Correspondent

normal call of duty and were not

others who carried out imme-

Lene end of the stadium where

£1.2m in agreed damages from

insurers for the police, Sheffield

Wednesday FC and the club's

Those 14 received a total of

many fans were crushed.

Bevis and Geoffrey Glave who treated fans on the pitch had little sympathy for the ofargued that they should be ficers. "As a mother of one of the dealt with as "rescuers" who victims, I wasn't entitled to were entitled to damages like compensation I was not other members of the public. deemed to have suffered Lord Steyn said police offienough by watching the cers who were traumatised by tragedy unfold on television and knowing my son was there," she said. "If police offi-

something they encountered in their work had the benefit of statutory schemes, which percers are not prepared to face mitted them to retire on a pentrauma then they shouldn't be sion. In that sense, they were in the joh. People are going to already better off than the rellose faith in them if compenatives of those who died. sation claims like this continue. In 1992, the House of Lords They will be seen as wimps."

dismissed the claims of relatives who sued for psychiatric The damages claims of the four officers were originally injury, including that of a man dismissed by a High Court who witnessed the scenes at the judge, who held that the officers football ground where two of his had not been placed beyond the hrothers died.

Simon Allen, the solicitor close enough to the actual for the four officers, said the "right of professional rescuers scene of the tragedy - unlike 14 to sue for psychiatric injury has been established by the House diate rescue work inside the spectator pens at the Leppings of Lords".

Mike Hedges, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, said the ruling was not a cause for celebration. "Police officers join the service with their eyes open to the dangers they face engineers. But Inspector and the standards of fortitude borough Family Support Group, Henry White and Constables and courage expected of them."



'Conversation Piece', by the Spanish artist Juan Munoz, on the seafront at South Shields; the 22-figure bronze work. installed this week, is South Tyneside's first landmark sculpture paid for by the Arts Council Lottery Fund NNP to be with Barbara Walters.

Channel 4 wins Monica exclusive

BY JACKIE BURDON

CHANNEL 4 has clinched the only international interview with Monica Lewinsky, it con-

firmed yesterday. The £400,000 deal was signed for the original asking price after "editorial" negotiations. Channel 4 said that the interviewer, Jon Snow, will be "both tough and fair" with Miss Lewinsky, who has agreed to speak about "her life and the events of the last year, including her relationship with Bill Clinton"

The deal means that the channel can cash in on worldwide rights for the exclusive, as the planned American network television interview is restricted to screenings in the United States and Canada. "This is a real coup for Channel 4," David Lloyd, head of news, current affairs and husiness, said.

Other British broadcasters have reportedly been trying to secure an interview, but the negotiations were not over money. Channel 4 said: "The problems have been about what she can and cannot say. We have been talking to her lawyers and are now happy we are going to have an interview with some editorial value."

The interview will be conducted in the US and will be transmitted, probably in Febican interview, which is believed

Jail baby units reviewed

THE PRISON Service announced a review of its mother and baby units yesterday as the news emerged that more women were planning to sue the service for being separated from their children.

The review comes only days after a mother in Holloway prison, north London, took the service to court after her newborn child was taken from her when she was denied a place in the jail's mother and baby unit. Richard Tilt, director-

general of the Prison Service, said the review would look at the very principles of holding mothers and babies in prison.

The review comes as the

BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison Service is facing a series of other legal challenges from jailed mothers. The next case likely to go to court involves a woman at Holloway whose baby was taken from her at the age of five weeks after the mother was removed from the unit.

The first legal challenge brought by a woman known as Miss E-led to a climbdown last month by the Prison Service. which subsequently found her a place in a mother and baby

unit at Styal prison in Cheshire. Mr Tilt said the the review would look at the number and procedures."

type of facilities on offer to mothers and babies, as well as the process of allocating places inside units. It will consider how long habies should be able to stay with their mothers.

The policy governing mother and baby units has not been reviewed since the first one opened in 1966. There are four prisons offering a total of 64 places in the units.

Mr Tilt said: "I believe it is now time to conduct such a review to look again at the principles of holding mothers and bahies in prison, operation of the units and specifically the admission criteria and

MARK STEEL

'Ask the parent of a two-year-old who is the most terrifying dinosaur of all and they will probably answer "Barney"."

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

From the bestselling author of Gridiron and Esau comes the thriller of the future and the thriller for Christmas

THE SECOND ANGEL

Michael Crichton or your money back

THE THRILLER OF THE FUTURE

'Most thrillers insult your intelligence; this one assaults your ignorance' Esquire

'A gripping read with the perfect mix of imagination, intelligence and action' The Times

'Funny, inventive, crammed with all kinds of scary prefigurations of the post-millennial future' Mail on Sunday

ORION BOOKS

£12.99



The Anglo-I Christmas pres Arcadia, the fa: acularly wrong Mile. Reed blar con and tough A downturn, but numing by the es shortfail. They chais with the menths and h pression things The scale o

stock market goals - are beco

Vesterday it wa purn to kick the

larger than we despairing anal cent to £770m Reed's sha our ished as bu surprise into spurned analy: steck 10.5p dox the owner of t shop chain, co pinch of Wedne ost 21p to 15 Stanley downg

Investn bac

brewing and lei some welcome anen it reported g profits at its ne Hotels division. end there had be proputs and ha lewing a poor su including £17 Jenus pre-tax pr nereased from · aid that he Un was softeni strong in the U

Europe. Like for like and beer busin year on year de trading, but the p (e) managed pa Veill's and couraging, the c

i: nas been a pora e activity which it acquired H. els for £1.81 sold businesses cluding Gala bin

Gra

VIDEOLOGIC, the signer, is confid able to license its to several person ufacturers early The compan SPOOR 15 PC ma ** PowerVR2 S can deliver two three-dimension

ing it especially computer game No agreem signed yet, but Videologic to cl early next year group that mani for Videologic. ume production

of next year.

Helpline opens to aid the homeless

THOUSANDS OF people around
Britain are facing homelessSocial Affairs Correspo ness because they are given had advice or no help at all, according to a new report by the housing charity Shelter.

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Thon,

Children are particularly vulnerable, hut owner-occupiers, victims of domestic violence and the elderly often face critical housing problems. To tackle the issue, the charity has set up a free, 24-hour, telephone helpline with BT.

Shelter examined 700 cases involving more than 1,200 people. It found that in more than 60 per cent of cases, people suffered because they did not receive information at the right time. More than a quarter had received poor service or inaccurate advice, which aggravated the problems. In one case in seven, local authorities had made the wrong decision. Almost 80 per cent of those

or were facing homelessness. Others were suffering harassment or benefits delays, or had problems with repairs or arrears in rent or mortgage. On any one night in Britain.

streets, 600 people face losing

surveyed were either homeless

their homes and 80,000 are in bed-and-breakfast rooms. More than 300,000 people live in homes where they are three months or more behind in their mortgage payments, more than one million people live in homes unfit for human habitation and nearly three million children live in households that cannot afford their

housing costs without help

from the state. Of the 700 case histories. nearly 10 per cent were owner-

Social Affairs Correspondent

ters had had their home re possessed or were facing repossession. A quarter rented in the private sector and a fifth

were local authority tenants. Under the 1996 Housing Act. if people apply for rehousing they must show they do not have accommodation elsewhere which is reasonable for them to occupy

Even then they may be judged to have made themselves intentionally homeless and lose their right to housing. People may also be told it is reasonable for them to stay in their current accommodation.

In West Sussex, a couple with four children witnessed a murder in their home town. They gave evidence to police and were scared of reprisals. They applied as homeless to another local authority and were told to return home. In another case a local authority refused emergency housing to a 16year-old rape victim who had been thrown out by her parents.

"Some of the cases we see up to 2,500 people sleep on the are beyond belief," said Shelter's deputy director, Louise Casey. "It is unbelievable that a woman who has been beaten for years and who finally summons up the courage to flee with her children is told hy a local authority she has made herself intentionally homeless."

Shelter worked with 100,000 people last year but with the new helpline it expects to assist 300,000 next year. The helpline covers England, Scotland and Wales and is for people with any type of housing problem.

occupiers, of which three-quar- The helpline is on 0808 800-4444

Pioneering surgery restores man's sight



John Barr, from Yorkshire, has his eyes tested after the operation in Liverpool restored his sight Peter Byrne

A 70-YEAR-OLD man spoke yes-terday of how his life had Social Affairs Correspondent "changed completely" after a his sight when he faced the

prospect of blindness. John Barr, a retired dentist, had already lost all sight in his right eye and his left eye was failing so rapidly he could recognise people only when they were close up. After the operation on his left eye, he is riding a bicycle again and reading

small print in newspapers. Charities for the blind welcomed the news of the new operation but said they wanted to see full trials on the procedure to ascertain how successful it

Surgeons at Royal Liverool Hospital's St Paul's Eye Unit operated on Mr Barr, who lost the sight of his right eye seven years ago through macular degeneration. Macular degeneration is the most common cause of blindness in the Western world, affecting a million people in Britain, primarily the old. It is a condition in which the retina wears out over time, ripheral vision.

Until now, the only treat-

pioneering operation restored but this cannot be used on most patients. "I'd had laser treatment hut that had not worked and things were pretty bleak," Mr Barr said yesterday. "Tjumped at the chance to be one of the first patients to try this operation."

The surgeons at the unit worked to transfer Mr Barr's vision from a worn part of the retina to a healthier area, thereby restoring his sight. "Put simply, it is like moving around a carpet which has a worn patch in it and tucking the worn part away," said David Wong, chief opthalmic surgeon. "I believe that this is the single most important surgical development for many years."

Mr Barr can now read a number plate at 25 yards. "In time, my vision may improve

enough for me to drive again." A spokesman for the Royal National Institute for the Blind said the news was "very exciting" but more work needed to be done. "We need to know how much vision it restores, whether it works in all cases or only for certain people. There

Gift ideas from Sainsbury's. The beauty is, they're all £5 or less.



THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

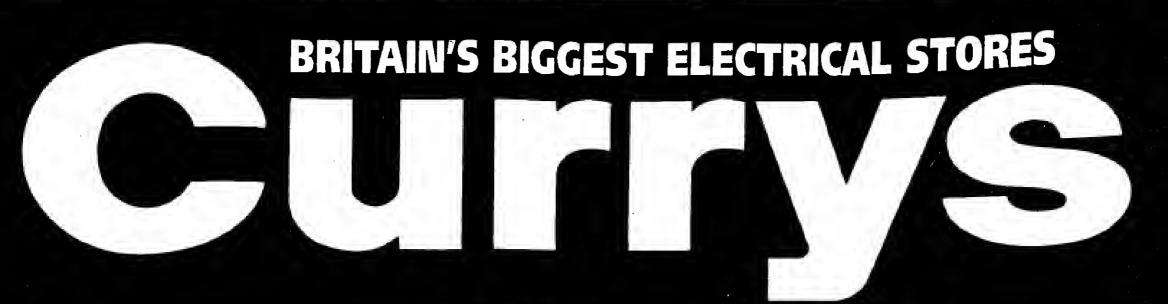
A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

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CURRYS PRICE ■ 0.8 lux low light capability. Auto exposure modes. Model VME 330/R. Was £349.99. **6 MONTHS INTEREST** FREE OPTION*

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Everything

Anglo-French battering ram' forged

NOT YET an "entente cordiale", it is more like an intent cordiale. British and French leaders started their annual two-day summit on the Breton coast yesterday amid talk of an "historic" joint initiative on Euro-

pean defence policy. Like the coastal mist, suspicion and uncertainty lingered on both sides, but some sort of statement of principles is likely to be issued today by Tony Blair President Jacques Chirac and the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin.

However vague the final language - and vague it is likely to be - the occasioo can reasonably claim to be historic.

French officials say the preparatory talks have been the most substantial and innovative nn a large European issue between London and Paris since the dawn of France's Fifth Republic in 1958: in other words since President Charles de Gaulle's "non" to British memhership of what was then the Common Market

?≘ction

This is the 21st annual Anglo-French summit, but the first in which the two govern-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD in St Malo

ments have sought - notwithstanding the anti-European thunder in the British press to act as a battering ram for the creation of a new EU policy.

There has been much talk of Franco-German axes and Anglo-Franco-German triangles but this is the first time that London and Paris have conspired, in the Franco-German manner, to push EU powers into a significant new area.

Mr Blair was meeting President Chirac tête-à-tête last night, followed by dinner with Mr Jospin. All three will come together for a joint press conference this morning.

There is other business on the table: the reform of the EU budget and farm policy; German ideas for the harmonisation of VAT and corporation taxes; the enlargement of the EU to the east and Western policy in Iraq and Kosovo. There will also be meetings between the British and French Foreign, Defence, Finance, Transport and European ministers.

But the centrepiece - fittingly in a town that has been at the heart of Anglo-French enmity and alliance for centuries - is defence policy.

Should the EU have ooe? If so, what should its scope and powers be; and how can it be called into being without weakening Nate and encouraging firture American administrations to dilute US commitment to the defence of Europe?

St Malo was for centuries one of the principal ports from which French corsairs raided British shipping; it was blockaded for years by the British fleet during the Napoleonic wars and it was flattened by American and British bombers, in the cause of French liberation, in August 1944.

The new defence relationship between London and Paris was symbolised yesterday by the presence in the inner harbour of the destroyer HMS Birmingham, moored alongside the French warship, Tourville. The Secretary of State for Defence, George Roberston and his French colleague, Alain Richard, are due



Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Tony Blair at the start of the two-day summit in St Malo

tn sign a letter of intent on military co-operation aboard the Royal Navy vessel today.

مكذا من الاصل

But how can such partnerships be handled at the highest level? The two countries are by far the greatest military powers on the Continent, east of Rus-

trated - Britain from within both British and French anxi-Nato, France from outside with their inability to make that strength count in local but poisonous conflicts in which the US refuses to get involved.

The central aim of the summit is to produce a statement of principles that would square

eties and, it is hoped, appeal to other European countries and the US at the Nato summit next

Britain has agreed for the first time that defence policy can be decided at EU level. The

Union, the existing, ineffectual, European defeoce arm, suspended somewhere between Nato and the EU.

Britain would like the WEU's forces to be given to Nato and its decision-making capacity principal difficulty is what to do to go to the EU. The French

want the WEU to be swallowed up by the EU wholesale and its logistics, satellite and transport capacity increased.

Officials were working last night on compromise wordings between these positions, which

MEPs trim their travel perks

EURO-MPs voted to cut their BY STEPHEN CASTLE lavish travel expenses yesterday and adopt a common salary under a new package designed to clean up the parliament's free-loading image.

The deal would give British MEPs a small pay rise, taking their earnings above those of MPs at Westminster, and would also give them a big tax break worth thousands of pounds. If agreed by heads of gov-

phased in over five years.

in Brussels

parliamentarians' expenses because public confidence was "seeping away" from the institution.

The package included giving MEPs the right to be taxed at the same preferential rate as EU officials - 22.3 per cent. The issue will be discussed

ernment, the package will be a summit in Vienna next weekend, although it was unclear The vote was welcomed by whether Tony Blair will back Alan Donnelly, leader of the 60 the package, in view of the new Labour MEPs, who said it was tax concession. The deal needs mentarians in each member The banks are increasing their important to tackle the issue of the approval of all 15 leaders, state. British MPs are paid advertising in Germany.

making the prospect of it proceeding far from certain.

The agreement bases travel allowances on costs incurred, with MEPs required to submit receipts. That would make impossible most of the abuses of the present travel allowance scheme under which MEPs can make tens of thousands of pounds a year. The European Partiament's travel bill every by EU heads of government at year for 625 MEPs from 15 countries costs £18m.

> Now. MEPs' salaries are are set at the level of parlia

£45,066, the same as Westminster parliamentarians, and the common salary is likely to be worth £1,000 to 2,000 more, depending on the exchange rate. MEPs will still enjoy an allowance of £2,200 a mooth for

office management. Bankers in Switzerland are trying to cash in on German fears of a change in tax policy after the recent election victory of the Social Democrats. Banks say there has been an increase in the number of Gerpaid out of national budgets and mans flying in with their money as they fear a new wealth tax.

Poles move to arrest don's wife

THE MILITARY Court in War- BY ADAM LEBOR saw ruled in favour of issuing an arrest warrant for the wife of an Oxford don yesterday over her alleged role as a military prosecutor in Stalinist-era Poland.

The decision is the latest move in a campaign by the Polish military authorities to extradite Helena Brus. Mrs Brus, 79, is the wife of Wlodzimierz Brus, emeritus professor of modern Russian and East European studies and a fellow of Wolfson College.

Mrs Brus, formerly known as Helena Wolinska, is accused of illegally ordering the arrest m Warsaw

in 1951 of General Emil Fieldorf, a high-ranking commander of the Polish national resistance, the Home Army (AK) and one of Poland's leading war heroes.

During the 1950s Poland, with its eastern European neighbours, was ruled by hardline Stalinists who took orders from Moscow.

Communist officials hunted down, tried and executed many members of the AK, despite its record of fighting the Nazis, as wartime AK might form the nu-

cleus of an anti-Soviet underground movement.

The Polish military prosecutor will now formally tell Mrs Brus of the decision. She will then have seven days to appeal, a spokesman for the Polish Justice Ministry said. Any appeal will then go to a higher military court. Polish sources said it was likely any appeal would be rejected.

The way would then be opeo for the Polish Justice Ministry formally to request her extradition from Britain. That gives rise to the spectre of a cootrothey feared that members of the versy similar to that sur- after the downfall of the Comrounding General Augusto munist regime.

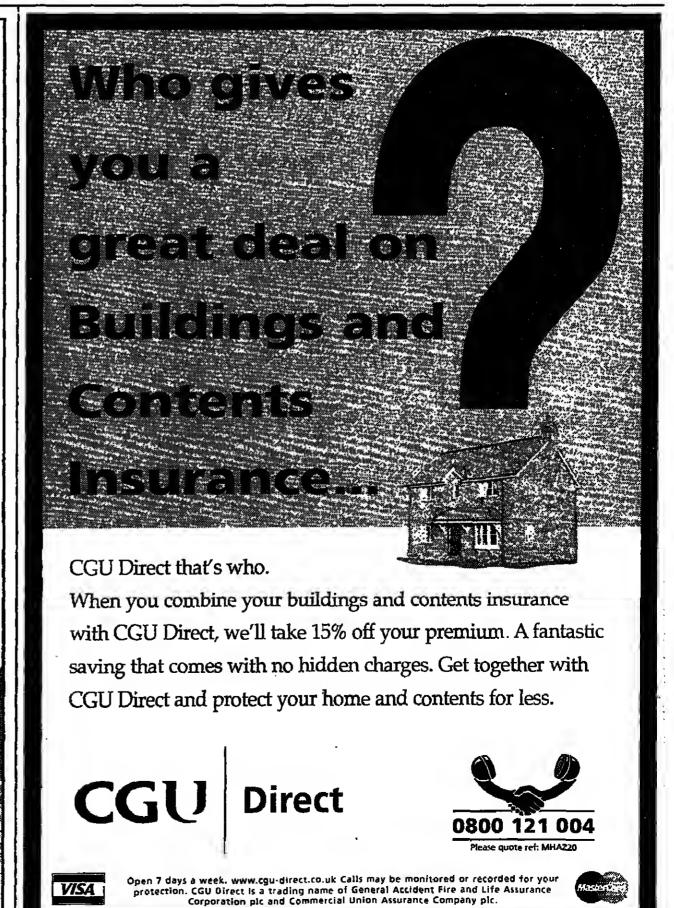
Pinochet - a pensioner being extradited for alleged crimes committed decades ago.

Mrs Brus left Poland after an anti-semitic campaign in 1968. She has denied that she charged General Fieldorf. She said that she was not involved in his arrest and had been involved in Poland's anti-Nazi resistance. She said she could

not expect a fair trial in Poland. General Fieldnrf was accused of attempting to overthrow the Polish state. He was hanged in 1953, but posthumously rehabilitated in 1989.

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Gaddafi

US accused of hypocrisy on human rights

A LEADING human rights By RUPERT CORNWELL group has delivered a harsh crilique of the American record, accusing Washington of tolerating systematic abuses within the United States - in other words of failing to practise itself what it preaches so loudly and self-righteously to others.

In its latest annual report published today, Human Rights Watch lists a whole series of

shortcomings by the US. These include the denial of full human rights to certain minority groups, including homosexuals and immigrants, a particularly brutal prison system, and capital punishment, of which the US is among the world's most zealous practitioners, exceeded only by such countries as China, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The largest US-hased human rights group claimed the Clinton administration's policy on the subject suffered from "large hlindspots," and that human rights rarely

ranked with its other interests. Ignorance of international human rights norms is widespread, the group says.

Both the federal and state authorities have resisted applying to the US the standards that the US, quite rightly, ap-

that occupies possibly the most

famous address in the world is

about to go through that most

American of experiences, a

Number 1600 Pennsylvania

Avenue, Washington DC - the

White House - will undergo its

most comprehensive overhaul

laid out in 1791. Assuming the

THE GLISTENING mansioo By MARY DEJEVSKY

since the city of Washington was be finished by the time the

Nor does Britain escape censure, despite the Northern Ireland peace agreement, which addresses the main source of human rights abuses of which the UK is regularly accused.

On paper, the deal's human rights provisions are strong, the report notes. But the British Government had shown little commitment when it comes to translating words into action as evidenced by the granting of even wider powers to the security forces after the Omagh bombing in August.

Despite the continuing violations of human rights in scores of countries around the world, Human Rights Watch is unbeat about the progress that has been achieved in the 50 years since the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose anniversary falls next week.

Over the past half century, human rights has been transformed from something of a dilettante cause to "the legitimate concern of the international community."

The arrest of, and the subsequent denial of immunity to General Augusto Pinochet of Chile "makes a nice anniversary present," said the group's by violence and civil war.

Congress and the public, who

will have their chance to com-

ment, the project will take 20

Phase one, which focuses on

clearing the clutter from inside

and outside the building, may

oext occupant, be it Al Gore,

in Washington

director, Kenneth Roth. But he called for a permanent international system of justice, "to make sure no despot gets away with his crimes".

The key to this, he argues, is quick ratification of the treaty setting up the UN-sponsored international court of justice. agreed by 120 nations in Rome last July, and now signed by 133. But here again Washington is taken to task.

Alone of the world'a major developed nations, the US refuses to sign up to the international court, placing it in a select group with Iraq, Libya, China and Iran. The Clinton administration has also coldshouldered initiatives seeking to outlaw landmines, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

Even when Washington does deign to ratify international treaties, Human Rights Watch says, it typically "carves away added protection for those in the US", by tacking on various reservations, declarations and understandings.

Among the special problem areas singled out by the report are many African countries, the "depressingly familiar" abuses across much of South Asia, and countries such as Algeria and Afghanistan, torn

2001. The first priority - creat-

ing a large underground car

park to the south of the White



A death row prisoner in a Texas jail. Washington has been criticised for having a 'human rights blindspot'. particularly in its use of capital punishment and the harsh treatment of inmates

'deal' on Libyan suspects By DAVID USBORNE in New York

HOPES WERE rising yesterday for an agreement on the delivery of two Libyan suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to stand trial in the Netherlands, following confirmation from the United Nations Secretary General, that he is to hold talks with Muammar Gaddafi, the Lihvan leader, to-

"Yes, I will got to Libya on Saturday." Kofi Annan said while on a visit to the Tunisian capital, Tunis, yesterday. "We are going to look at a solutions to the problem." Asked whether he expected to meet with Mr Gaddafi. Mr Annan answered: I believe so".

Deadlock over the two Libyans, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammed al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, showed signs of ending in August when Britain and the United States agreed to allow the pair to be tried outside the US or Scotland. Both governments offered The Hague as the veoue for a trial, though it would be presided over hy Scottish judges. Since then, negoti-ations between Lihva and the United Nations have become snarled up in detail.

In exchange for surrendering the two men, Libya would finally be relieved of the UN sanctions that have effectively isolated it from the rest of the world, for example by banning flights to and from it.

north of the White House, a

News Analysis.

PANDREW GARLELLE tities its friends in deet by Man

the past.

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different, takes up residence in trance, would be able to park dor off the Oval Office for his her car underground and make her way through monitored passages into the building.

White House prepares for 20 years of redecorating

House-could make the secret The plan is for the President entrances and exits, made and his family to have a large known through the confessions "recreation area" to function as of Monica Lewinsky, a thing of a "den, gym and entertainment

With relatively modest living Ms Lewinsky, instead of quarters concentrated in ooe walking from the open car park, wing of the building. Mr Clinton to be ushered in through a George Bush Jnr or someone non-visitor and non-staff enhad little choice but the corri-

assignations with Monica. Clearing the area of cars is

also intended to offer visitors a freer vista of the White House's impressive southern aspect.

Another priority is to provide space for all the paraphernalia of banquets and other state occasions. The Park Service, which manages the White House and grounds and has overseen the remodelling plan.

says: "Closets, corridors and driveways overflow with furniture and equipment, as though the staff were having a sale."

As now, tourists will have to gather at a visitor centre, a short distance from the White House, if they want to tour the building: they could, however, be transported underground oo a moving pavement.

Television pictures of the White House Press briefing

room for anyone to put everything. The oew plans call for a spanking oew media centre to be built underground.

dignified space appropriate to

What will not come is the end of the much-resented closure of

thoroughfare as much part of the political centre of the west-Washingtoo as the National ern hemisphere. Turn the cam-Mall and Independence Averas the other way, and the enue. Blocked, and clumsily reality is different; it is a crowded mess as there is simply no barricaded in 1995, after a gunman took a pot shot that landed uncomfortably close to the presidential offices, any reopening must be approved oo security grounds, and that

room give the impression of a Pennsylvania Avenue, to the



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EL ROPEAN CENTRAL bankers el no be doing a passable mile

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6

China fires first shot in Internet war

حكدًا من الاصل

CHIN'S FIRST alleged Internet BY STEPHEN VINES rimial goes on trial in Shang hai telay, facing the possibility of five years or more in jail for "incling the overthrow of state

The charges have been laid agenst Lin Hai, a 30-year-old conputer software executive addresses in China. wb is accused of giving 30,000 actresses to an electronic newsletter called VIP Refererce. The newsletter is compled by supporters of the

in Hong Kong

Chinese democracy movement in Washington. It carries news of dissident activity, essays and debates on democratic topics and is said to reach 250,000

Although most trials in Shanghai are open to the public this one will be held behind closed doors. Li Chunping, a spokesman for the Shanghai

government internal affairs, it is not public."

The trial is being seen by dissidents as an opening salvo in the war waged by the authorities to prevent the Internet from becoming an important source of antigovernment information.

A growing number of Chinese dissidents based in the United States have seized upon in the country, are vulnerable. circumvented by Internet users

Foreign Affairs Office, said: the Internet as a means of cir-"Because this case involves cumventing China's tight cen- March, China's main way of neutral websites that serve as sorship laws. Unlike most Chinese characters and often litical developments in China.

> The overseas dissidents are beyond the reach of the Chinese and "pornography" and putting authorities but people such as a block on all sites that contain Mr Li, who are in a position to these words. supply e-mail addresses with-

tackling Internet "infiltration of material on the World Wide subversive ideas" was to set up Web, these sites are written in so-called firewalls, which filter access to websites considered provide up-to-date news oo po- to be unacceptable. It does this by scanning the Web for key words such as "democracy"

The firewalls can easily be

links to other sites on the Web.

China has an estimated 1.2 million Internet accounts, which are sbared by many more users. A cyber café craze is sweeping through China, giving Internet access to the majority of the population, who own neither a computer nor a private telephone line. Most of these cafes are linked to proxy ture with the Communist servers to give users access to Party's mouthpiece newspa-

well publicised.

Meanwhile the Chinese government is making efforts to create better-quality official websites to aid its propaganda effort and focus on non-Murdoch's News Corporation is be actively involved in this effort. It has formed a joint ven-

Before Mr Li's arrest in who link up to proxy servers - forbidden websites. This fact is per, the People's Daily, called ChinaByte. It focuses on information technology news.

It was Mr Murdoch who said in 1993 that technological advances in communications were "an unambiguous threat controversial topics. Rupert to totalitarian regimes everywhere". With the trial of Mr Lin the only foreign organisation to and other measures, such as co-operation with Mr Murdoch's company, the Chinese authorities are trying to prove

Babies die in Manila inferno

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

AT LEAST 28 people, many of them babies and young children, were burnt to death in Manila yesterday in a fire at one of the city's slum orphanages.

Six adults and twenty-two children were confirmed dead afer being trapped in the upper flors of the three-storey Associacion de Damas de Piliphas orphanage, which burnt iown yesterday morning in the Paco district of Manila.

Throughout the day, firemen and rescue workers carried small bundles of remains from the ruins of the 78-year-old building. Many of the bodies were beyond recognition and two children were still unaccounted for last night.

The bodies of 13 children were found huddled together in a singleroom and near by was the body of an adult who appeared to have been trying to protect two other children.

"I heard babies crying at one end of the building but we could not react them because the flames were spreading rapidly and we sould not stand the heat." sail Tobias Ronan, who worked a the orphanage.

Party decorations lay strewn around the ruins of the building, in preparation for the orphinage's Christmas hold of the stairs. party, which was to have been



held today. Most of the 43 survivors were sleeping on the ground floor, but those above were trapped behind locked windows after the fire took

"I was sleeping on the

up," said Carina Bellosillo, a teacher "Already, the ceiling was on fire and the stairs going up to the second floor were burning. I wanted to go upstairs to save the babies, but my com-

ground floor when I was woken panions pulled me back." Anone of the rooms but three oth-

bave been trapped by locked other teacher said: "I was able doors. City officials announced to get eight children out from an investigation after reports that the fire brigade took an ers were left behind. I don't hour to reach the scene. Memknow what happened to them." bers of the Manila police arson Some of the dead appear to unit said the fire appeared to

electrical wiring. The President, Joseph Estrada, visited the disaster scene, "I will raise funds personally," he said. "I will do everything I can

Taliban sends assassins to quell dissent

ASSASSINS linked to the Taliban By JASON BURKE government of Afghanistan are attacking enemies of the hardline Islamic regime who have

sought sanctuary abroad. Gangs of gunmen commissioned by the movement are tilamed for the deaths of at least four prominent opposition figures in recent months. Dozens of other enemies of the regime - often intellectuals or human rights campaigners - have been intimidated or harassed.

The most recent attack was in Mastung, south-west Pak-istan Mullah Sorkatib - a senior commander in a rival faction who fled Afghanistan two years ago - was seriously wounded in the jaw and arm and his personal guard was killed when four men, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, forced their way into his home.

Local police said last week they had arrested one of Sorkatib's attackers, who claimed that the group had been commissioned by a senior figure in the Taliban. They were to receive 250,000 rupees (£3,300) each if they were successful, the man said. The Taliban has strongly denied any involvement.

Last month another squad of gunmen sbot dead a leading campaigner for democracy in Afghanistan in a bazaar in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar. Mohammed Hashim working hard to destabilise the Paktyanai had organised a regime.

in Quetta

meeting of dissidents to mark the anniversary of the death of the former Afghan president Najibullah, who was killed by the Taliban two years ago, Paktyanai's family said he had been receiving death threats for some time.

Two other opponents of the Taliban - both connected with the Communist regime that ruled Afghanistan in the Eighties - have been shot and killed in recent months in Quetta, a city in south-west Pakistan. One, Nazar Mohammed, 65. was the bead and founder of the Movement for Peace in Afghanistan, which he claimed had more than 100,000 members around the world.

There has also been a string of attacks on intellectuals and women's rights activists in Peshawar.

Observers say the attacks are part of a general crackdown by the Taliban - which controls 90 per cent of Afgbanistan - on ideological opponents, inside and outside the country. Several hundred dissidents alleged to be planning a coup were jailed in October.

Though the Taliban is supported by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, many other regional powers - including Iran - are

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Bolshoi seeks white knight for the opera

THE RUSSIAN government and the United Nations are launching an international appeal for money to restore the Bolshoi Theatre, which is on the verge of falling down.

Chandeliers have yet to drop on the heads of the operaloving public in Moscow but the 19th-century wooden foundations are rotting and pipes recently burst in the administrative offices, spraying scalding water on to the desks of

News of the fund-raising drive came earlier this week after the first meeting of a new Russian-Unesco organising committee. The campaign will be launched at a charity performance in May but those interested can now visit the Bolshoi's Internet website on

The Bolshoi Theatre is not only our national beritage but the heritage of the whole Valentina

BY HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

Matviyenko, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Russia's social policy. Russia might be having difficulty paying wages and pensions, but the signifi-cance of the Bolshoi was such that funding would be found, she said. Any additional con-tributions from abroad would be

On a par with the wonders of Prague and Venice it may be, but the 173-year-old Bolshoi is in a very sorry state. Damp is rising from an underground river and the original wooden foundations are disintegrating. Not only that, but the building has not been rewired since the

have closed the theatre," said the administrative director,



when the pipes burst a few days

intends to keep the familiar outstucco theatre, changing only "dated symbols" such as the Stalin-era stage curtains with

that a "fountain" of hot water signs. However, in many invis-had overwhelmed his desk ible ways, the structure will be cilities provided. Experts have been consulted to ensure that whatever alterations are made estimated cost of the 10-year

project is \$350m (£218m). Already, with the help of Moscow Mayor, Yuri Luzhkov,

an alternative stage has been built, so that the troupe of the Bolshoi can remain in the public eye during the renovation.

Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov (left) is trying to get international support to renovate the Bolshoi, which has foundations that are disintegrating

Despite the economic crisis. Ms Matviyenko said the federal government had found \$45m to start work on the main building and this month Russian firms would be invited to ten-

The Bolshoi may be crumbling physically but spiritually. it is in better bealth than for vears under its new artistic director, the former dancer Vladimír Vasilyev, New ballets for Christmas and the new year have been previewed. And February will see the opening

of Oprichnik, Tchaikovsky's

rarely performed opera about

the secret police under Ivan the Terrible, which would have been politically incorrect in

Mr Vaslilyev, who criticised the way the Bolshoi used to sit on its laurels when it beld a monopoly, would be the first to admit that his theatre has benefited from some healthy

Just up the road is the Novaya Opera (New Opera) of Vladimir Kolobov, who spent years working in a disused cinema until Mayor Luzhkov built him a splendid new opera bouse. And there are also sev eral opera studios that help to make Moscow, in the dead of economic winter, a musical

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DiCaprio film 'spoils' sacred Thai island

BY SARAH STRICKLAND in Bangkok

ON A tiny island off southern Thailand a war is being waged between environmentalists and British film producers over a Hollywood adaptation of the best-selling novel *The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tilda Swinton. The production team behind

the film Trainspotting has unwittingly sparked controversy over its plans to film on Ko Phi Phi Leh in the Andaman Sea. The island is a sacred site and

a protected national park where officially not a flower may be picked or a stone overturned But 20th Century Fox gained permission in October to dig up the island's Maya Bay. remove shrubs and plant 100 coconut trees.

When the bulldozer moved in, the accusations that Thai law was "up for sale" grew so loud that the Forestry Department suspended its permission for two weeks pending an inquiry. Its decision is expected today but protesters have decided



allowed to dig up shrubs

not to wait and are risking arrest by occupying Maya Bay, which they say has already been irrevocably damaged.

"This was not supposed to from the Forestry Department. 'It will prevent the film crew starting their work."

The production is facing allegations that it has paid protection money and even hired armed guards.

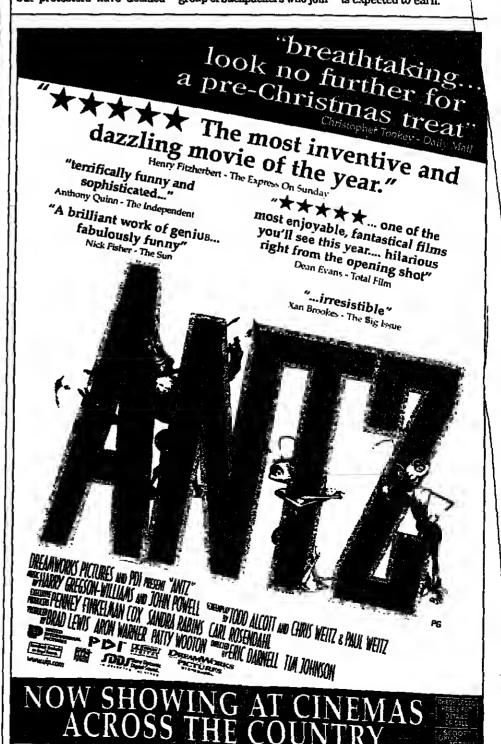
Alex Garland's The Beach follows the adventures of a group of backpackers who join a utopian community on unspoilt land. They encounter a group of armed "goons" guardng a marijuana plantation.

The fact that Maya Bar is not quite perfect enough in the eyes of Hollywood is at irony that has not escaped elvironmentalists. "Most wild beaches have bushes not occonut trees but that doesn't onform to Hollywood's idea of a tropical island," said Ing Kananavit, a green protester.

The Forestry Department originally argued that he film would promote Thailaid as a tourist destination, so ething it does not appear to ned.

Andrew Macdonald, he producer, says he and the drector, Danny Boyle, thought they had turough au the righ chap nels when seeking pernission. "We never expected to b faced with criticism," he said a letter to the Bangkok Post

The company has paid £66,000 to film on the islan with a deposit of £83,000 aginst damage, a small figure ompared with the £12m DiCorio is expected to earn.



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Country no place for muck and muddle

EUROPEAN TIMES

NORMANDY

farmer. He looks like a characoovel: a dreamy, hunched, young man, born by mischance nto a life of rural drudgery. Despite his outdoor life (a life in which he has no use for doors, as we will see) he looks pale and sickly and depressed. He smiles a lot, mostly apologetically.

Jean-Michel is our oeighbour: a dairy farmer in the hill village in Normandy where we recently bought a small house for weekends and holidays. My conversations - everyone's conversations - with Jean-Michel tend to be limited to a few words about the weather (or since this is Normandy, the rain) and whatever minor atrocity he has committed that day (for which he is always sincerely sorry).

Jean-Michel is a menace; a rural sociopath; an agricultural down and out. He is a character from Cold Comfort Farm alive, hut not especially well, in the French countryside; a rench Eddie Grundy.

He seems always to be balancing on the edge of a new disaster, which is, presumably, why the only other active farmer in the village calls him, despairingly, "L'Acrobate". "Il est là, l'acrobate?" (Is he there, the acrobat?) asks André, the other farmer, coming to our gate, as if he is convinced that Jean-Michel must be hiding in our garden. Usually it is because Jean-Michel's longsuffering but free-spirited cows have escaped again and are eating André's much greener

The of pre-medieval squalor. nt which the kitchen floor joins seamlessly with the farm yard. I've never been inside hut I've ofteo seen inside: Jean-Michel

HE LOOKS too frail to be a night, even when it is minus 8C outside. Here, he lives with a ter from a Thomas Hardy mysteriously urban and gentleseeming woman - a relatively oew addition to his life - who is viewed suspiciously by the locals (all 14 of them). She is known as "la copine": The

Small wooder that Jean-Michel's animals wander. His fields are full of unappetising weeds. Their boundaries are marked by pieces of string, reinforced by electric fences he forgets to switch on.

He has a tendency to get up later than dairy farmers are meant to. Towards the end of the morning, the cows become impatient, and uncomfortable, and make their own way down to the milking parlour. On cold. rainy mornings when he does remember to get up, Jean-Michel berds the cows through the mist in his battered, white Renault 4.

He proudly told me that he had 28 milking cows - by no means a small herd by French standards. They are huge beasts of the increasingly rare, Norman race, which are being driven out by the black-andwhite Friesians that have conquered the dairy world. (Authentic Norman cows have prettily indistinct, white and grey markings, like Friesians which have been through the wash too often.)

Unlike their owner, Jean-Michel's cattle seem healthy and content. The milk they produce goes to make camemberts in the shiny camembert factory down in the valley, which churns out 10,000 cheeses a day. Some stubborn gourmets insist that true camembert should be produced from only the Norman breed of cows but that rule had to be abandoned years ago.

Jean-Michel is a local boy, never shuts his door, even at formerly a farm labourer. His



The old rural ways are being driven out by market demands. European Union rules and tourism

career as a farmer – he took the tenancy only two years ago - is doomed to be short-lived. The career of such a hopeless farmer might have been doomed, in the long run, at any

place or at any time. But Jean-Michel's activities are threatened hy other factors: The forces of modernisation and hygieoe, tourism and market

French countryside, for good or

parlour of Jean-Michel's farm

rules, which are resbaping the and two feet deep in freezing. liquid manure - have been condemned (quite rightly) as failing EU-imposed, hygiene standards. Rather than invest

landlord has decided to convert the cow-sheds into "gites rurales" or basic dwellings for

summer tourists.

Within a year, Jean-Michel in new buildings, his absentee

farmer, most likely to the competent André (who owns oothhut standard-issue Friesians). In the past 30 years, 1.300.000 Freoch farms have disappeared in this way: there are about 700,000 left hut another 200,000 are expected to go in the oext two decades. Hence all those cheap, French coun-

When Jean-Michel goes, our village, which has lived principally from agriculture for more than 1,000 years, will be down to its last farm.

The cow-muck encrusted roads, which Jean-Michel is supposed to scrub hut does oot, will become clean roads. Self-willed Norman cows will disappear. Tourists - the likes of us - will arrive in greater numbers. Jean-Micbel will, doubtiess, go on the dole and be a much happier man.

The village will, like several other post-agricultural villages within walking distance, become tidier, prettier, but still and unreal: Without liquid manure

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JOHN LICEFIELD

Earhart 'died on Pacific atoll'

BY ANDREW GUMBEL

MORE THAN 60 years after the pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared without trace over the Pacific on a roundthe-world flight, American researchers believe they are close to cracking the mystery of where and how she died.

Armed with new evidence, Le International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (Tighar), based in Delaware, says Earhart and her navigator, Frederick J Noonan, almost certainly crashed on the atoll of Nikumaroro. They died either of thirst or starvation when rescue efforts failed to find them.

The group believes that key evidence in the case was dug up by the British colonial administration in the Western Pacific in 1940, three years after the crash, but was kept from public attention because of scientific ncompetence and an insisence by the High Commission to keep the affair secret

According to the Commissioo's files, the British administrator charged with governing



Earhart: New evidence

Nikumaroro discovered frag ments of shoes, a sextant box and some human bones, which made him think of Earhart.

Richard Gillespie of Tighan said: "Anything we discover is bound to be controversial. But just because we are criticised doesn't mean our evideoce has been disproved."

What is still missing is conclusive proof. The most compelling piece of evidence would be the bones, but nobody knows where they are.

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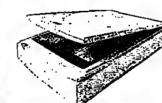
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Hallfax restructures business

HALIFAX SAID yesterday it was restructuring its business and making changes to its board. This is its first major announcement since James Crosby's appointment as chief executive. Roger Boyes, group finance director, will hand responsibility for corporate finance to Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive. John Miller, Housing and Technology director, will leave to pursue other business interests.

Mike Ellis, formerly Treasurer, will become retail financial services director in charge of a newly merged product division. Halifax used to operate separate mortgage, banking and financial services arms, with separate lines of reporting. Mr Ellis will also be in charge of all sales of Halifax branded products. Clerical Medical will remain a distinct company.

BA warns of air travel slowdown



BRITISH AIRWAYS warned that the outlook for air travel continued to be uncertain as it reported a further weakening in yields for November. The airline, headed by chief executive Robert Ayling (pictured), said business and first class traffic was down by 2.9 per cent compared with a 2.4 per cent fall the previous month as more passengers switched to flying economy, particularly oo transatlantic routes.

Radical pay structure at Siemens

SIEMENS, the German electronics and engineering giant, is to introduce a radical new pay structure for its 500 top managers which will mean that only 40 per cent of salary will be fixed. Of the balance, half will be an annual bonus linked to financial targets and half will be based on performance over threa years. Siemens also said it could seek a share listing in New York in summer 2001, following changes to its capital structure and accounting methods.

Battle go-ahead for power station

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday gave the go-ahead to the first two combined heat and power stations since it reaffirmed its moratorium on consents for any further gas-fired plant in September. John Battle, Energy Minister, has approved a 215-megawatt CHP station next to the Sbutton paper mill in Flintshire and a 56 megawatt station at Castleford, Yorkshire.

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FTSE All Share	2547.35	16.55	0.65	2886,52	2143.53	3.65
FTSE SmallCap	2021,40	-15,40	-0.76	2793.00	1834.00	4.18
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1	Dollar	1.6677	+0.50c	1.6451	Sterling	0.5936	-0.18p	0.6078
1	D-Mark	2 7867	+0.57nf	7.9743	D-Mark	1.6715	-0.05pt	1.7987

OTHER INDICATORS

118.71 -¥-1.44 130.58

		Cut	Tr Ago	_	didex	CINE	AL miles	triener tella
Brent Oil (S) 10.02	0.18	17.99	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Gold (S)	292 95	-0.45	292.15	RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55	Nov
Silver (S)	4.69	-0.18	5.32	Base	Rates	6.75	7.25	let Em

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

198.04 -41.63 215.94 Yen

100.20 +0.00 105.30 \$ Index

		0011101		
	Australia (\$)	2.5695	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.1
	Austria (schillings)		Netherlands (guilders)	3.042
	Belgium (francs)	55.76	New Zealand (\$)	3.043
	Canada (\$)	2.4923	Norway (krone)	12.0
	Cyprus (pounds)	0.7982	Portugal (escudos)	274.6
	Denmark (krone)	10.33	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.073
	Finland (markka)	a.1981	Singapore (5)	2.618
	France (francs)	9.0496	Spain (pesetas)	229.3
	Germany (marks)	2.7068	South Africa (rands)	9.092
	Greece (drachma)	445.83	Sweden (krone)	13.1
	Hong Kong (\$)	12.52	Switzerland (francs)	2.217
	Ireland (punts)	1.0852	Thalland (bahts)	55.0
	Indian (rupees)	63.76	Turkey (lirasl)	48777
-	Israel (shekels)	6.4625	USA (S)	1.628
ı	Italy (lira)	2686		
1	Japan (yen)	194 98	Rates for indication number	ses only

Source, Thomas Cook

6.0737

Malaysia (ringgits)

Slowdown fears prompt mass European rate cuts

BY DIANE COYLE

EUROPE'S CENTRAL banks announced a dramatic co-ordinated cut in interest rates yesterday, ahead of the launch of the euro on 1 January. The Bundesbank led the way, reducing its key rate to 3 per cent from 3.3 per cent.

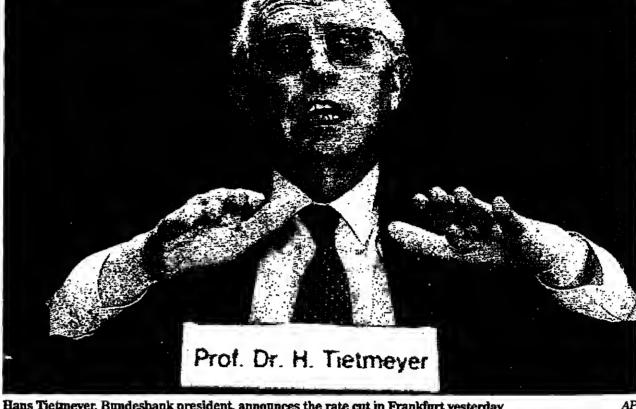
The surprise move raised to fever pitch expectations that the Bank of England will reduce UK interest rates again after next week's meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee. Two new business surveys published yesterday indicated that the economic slowdown has spread beyond manufacturing into retailing and services.

European central bankers were responding to fears of a global recession in the wake of the autumn's financial turbulence. Yesterday's announce-ments brought to 54 the number of central banks worldwide that have cut the cost of borrowing since the beginning of October.

The financial markets were delighted by this latest step in what clearly emerges as a co-ordinated series of moves by central banks since October's Group of Seven meeting in Washington, "Interest rates are coming down globally at some speed, and it is necessary that they do," said Michael Hughes, a director of Barings Asset Man-

The FTSE-100 index ended the day nearly 59 points higher at 5,566.1. But Wall Street was overshadowed by fears over Brazil, with the Dow Jones index 74 points lower at 8,990.14

All of the Euro zone countries except Italy now have interest



Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, announces the rate cut in Frankfurt yesterday

rates at 3 per cent, with Italy still at 3.5 per cent.

Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, said the move reflected economic conditions and cleared the ground for the new European Central Bank. But he denied the bankers were responding to pressure for a rate cut from politicians, including Oskar Lafontaine, German's forceful new finance minister. Economists agreed that the

move was justified by the prospect of an economic slowdown. "It reflects a collapse in

Europe," said Michael Lewis of Deutsche Bank.

The latest evidence of slowdown in the UK was provided by news that retailers last month suffered their biggest fall in confidence in the 15 years they have been surveyed by the Confederation of British Industry. While 36 per cent said sales in the past three months had been higher than a year earlier, 45 per cent said they were down.

The CBI said some sectors had stayed robust, and retailers

Christmas. But it warned that volumes might grow only at the expense of profit margins.

A separate survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed the first fall in activity in the service sector, which makes up two-thirds of the economy. "This points to growth very much grinding to a halt," said Adam Cole of HSBC Markets, although he said the UK was still

on course for a soft landing. The CBI welcomed the Eu-

consumer confidence across expected business to pick up for ropean interest rate cuts and called on the Bank of England to follow up with a haif point reduction in UK rates to 6.25 per cent next week. "Inflationary pressures are minimal across

Europe and the real danger is from a slowdown in growth." said Adair Turner, director gen-Marian Bell, an economist at

the Royal Bank of Scotland, warned: "The Bank should cut rates next week but it could be too late to prevent a recession

Brazil in new turmoil

By LEA PATERSON

BRAZILIAN SHARES plunged yesterday, reigniting fears of further turnoil in the financial markets, after the government failed to persuade opposition politicians to back a key part of its fiscal austerity plan.

By lunchtime in Sao Paulo, Brazil's leading Bovespa index was down 9.5 per cent on worries that the government would be unable to implement crucial

cuts in public borrowing. US banks and hedge funds have substantial exposure to Brazil and analysts fear that if the Brazilian economy falters. this could mean more chaos in world financial markets.

Jim O'Neill, bead of global atrategy at Goldman Sachs said: "These developments do not set a good precedent."

The defeat of proposed social security reforms, which would have saved \$2.2bn (£1.4bn) next year, put the Brazilian real under new pressure. The Brazilian Central Bank was reported to be selling dollars in an attempt to prop up the currency.

All Latin American stock markets were hit by the developments in Brazil, as was Wall Street, where the Dow dipped below the 9,000 mark. Emerging debt markets also bad a volatile session, with Brazilian dollar boods down by as much as 4.5 per cent.

Ironically, the Congressional defeat coincided with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) decision to release the first tranche - \$5.3bn - of the country's \$41.5bn rescue package. The deal, announced last month, was designed to prevent the emerging market chaos spreading to Latin America.

TENNIC DAY

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Large steps back at Barclays GEC 'weeks'

By Andrew Garfield Financial Editor

SIR ANDREW LARGE, the deputy chairman of Barclays Bank, yesterday became the latest casualty of the boardroom bust-up at the bank, which last week saw Martin Taylor quit as chief executive.

Barclays said that Sir Andrew, who clashed repeatedly with Taylor before be quit, is to give up his executive role to become non-executive deputy chairman from 1 January. Next year be will be at the bank one day a week instead of the four be works now, and his salary will be reduced accordingly.

Barclays yesterday denied that the decision to scale down

newed its attack on the former

Argos directors yesterday

claiming they should be "shown

the yellow card" for what it

claims were inaccurate state-

ments made during the com-

Failure to do so, Lord Wolfson,

GUS's chairman, said, would

risk making a "car boot sale out

Lord Wolfson said he would

consider taking his case to the

Department of Trade and In-

dustry, the High Court and the

House of Lords if his second ap-

proach to the takeover panel is

pany's £1.9bn bid for Argos.

of takeover bids".

turned down

GREAT UNIVERSAL Stores re- BY NIGEL COPE



up his executive role

ed by the recent turmoil at the bank. "This has nothing to do with the departure of Martin last week, this has been in the Sir Andrew's role was prompt- works for two-and-a-half

Associate City Editor

"Showing the yellow card

would mean a public rebuke say-

ing 'don't do it again'. If [the

panel] don't do that it means

economy with the truth is ac-

ceptable. We don't think that is

a good regulatory regime," he

GUS's claims centre on state-

ments made by Argos about its

fledgling operations in Holland.

Argos said initial sales were

GUS claims that having ob-

tained the management ac-

counts it is clear that sales

"ahead of expectations".

GUS renews its attack on Argos

lans for any other boardroom few days are made clear before changes at the moment. In the City the decision to re-

duce Sir Andrew's role was welcomed, with analysts arguing that the way in which Mr Taylor's departure was handled raised serious questions about the way the bank was run.

Some had expressed surprise at the way the board appeared to have been top heavy with directors, who were executive in name only and baving no clear area of responsibility were naturally drawn into areas where they had no obvious role.

Richard Coleman, banks analvst at Merrill Lynch, the investment bank "I think what is important is that these corpo-

were substantially below fore-

casts and that Argos failed to re-

veal this to the market. Under

panel rules "any material

change in any information

that cumulative sales at Argos

in Holland were ahead of ex-

pectations throughout the du-

may have dipped below budget

deny any breach. The panel

has also said it is satisfied the

code was adhered to. It has writ-

ten to GUS saying it will con-

sider its recewed claim.

ration of the bid, although they

The former Argos directors

However, it is understood

should be released.

on particular weeks.

Barclays proceeds to appoint a new chief executive."

Sir Andrew, who joined Barclays from the Securibes and Investments Board, had been criticised for seeking to secondguess Mr Taylor's decisions in a way which antagonised not just Mr Taylor but other board members as well.

Sir Andrew's bostility towards the former chief executive was said to have been a result of Mr Taylor blocking Sir Andrew's attempt to become chairman of Barclays Capital, Barclays investment banking operation. He had worked in the City at Swiss Bank Corporation prior to joining SIB.

However, it is understood that

the panel has not seen anything

in GUS's new claims to make it

The comments came as GUS

reported a sharp fall in first-half

profits from 2261m to £176.1m.

This was in line with an earlier

warning on profits which said

that trading profit from the

Argos and Metromail database

acquisitions would be weighted

below the same period last year.

The grim news forced GUS

shares 25p lower to 549p, their

Argos sales in October and

towards the second half.

lowest point since 1995.

change its mind.

to make a decision on its strategic course soon," be added. The announcement sent GEC shares 54p ahead to close at 505p as analysts sensed that a mega-merger between GEC and one or more rival defence

companies was close at hand. News of the discussions came as GEC announced 1.500 job losses in its telecommunications and industrial electron-

ics divisions and reported a 21 per cent rise in operating profits for the balf year to £358m. Lord Simpson would not be

drawn on whether the defence consolidation would see it link up with a European partner, acquire another US defence company or go ahead with the long-mooted merger with November were 4 per cent British Aerospace. But he appeared to downplay

the prospects of a deal with the French, indicating that it could compromise its interests in the per cent stake in GPT.

months," a spokesman said. The bank said there were no plans for any other boardsoon base emerged over the last mega-merger GEC SHARES surged by 12 per BY MICHAEL HARRISON

cent yesterday as the defence US. where GEC has recently electronics giant said it was just "weeks" away from a deal completed the £800m takeover to take part in the consolidation of the defence contractor Tracor. Forty per cent of Marconi Elecof the global defence industry. Lord Simpson, GEC's chief tronic Systems' business is now executive, said the company with the Pentagon.

bad been in "intense" discus-Referring to the Americans' "paranoia" about security and sions for several months with a number of major players both in the difficult relations they had Europe and the United States. with the French on defence, he said: "Clearly if we went down "These discussions have prothe French route we would have gressed well and GEC expects to bear in mind the implications for our existing and future business in the US."

Lord Simpson also dismissed (speculation that GEC might merge with France's Alcatel. which holds a 16 per cent stake in Thomson CSF. GEC's cash pile stands at

£1.2bn and it has a further £4bn of credit facilities, giving it enough firepower to launch a major acquisition. In the US, attention has focussed on Northrop Grumman, which was blocked from merging with Lockheed Martin earlier this year. Litton Industries and ITT Industries.

The job losses will fall mainly in Essex where Marconi Communications is closing a cable manufacturing plant at Dagen-ham and merging two telecoms business in Chelmsford, following its acquisition of Siemens' 40

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES CLOSED higher for the first time in four days yesterday boosted by bopes of an interest rate cut next week.

The FTSE-100 index had a roller-coaster session. It closed 58.9 higher at 5566.1 after swinging in a 182-point arc. A gloomy CBI survey and worries over Wall Street caused a bout of selling in the morning. The losses were wiped out in early afternoon following a raft of interest rate cuts in the euro-zone. The monetary easing in Europe fuelled hopes of a cut by the Bank of England next week.

NEW YORK

A PLUNGING Brazilian market reawakened fears of large Latin American losses, pulling the Dow Jones back below the 9,000 threshold.

J.P. Morgan fell 4 per ceot, accounting for one fifth of the fall in the Index, while Merrill Lynch dropped nearly 4 per cent. Computer and telecommunications stocks rose,

and there was bope that the European interest rate cut could stimulate exports. "This is good news for the marketplace," one

TOKYO

CONCERN THAT a weakening dollar and a strengthening yen would scupper an export-led recovery resulted in the Nikkei's largest fall in three weeks. By the close the Index had dropped 2 per cent to 14,697.

Sony Corp, Fuji and Canon, who increasingly rely on buoyancy in the US economy to offset sluggish domestic sales, accounted for an eighth of the index's decline.

There is a widening perception that a US slowdown is only a matter of time. The stronger yeo is certainly putting pressure on exporter's profits," one dealer said.

S HONG KONG

HONG KONG sbares staged a late comeback to recoup early afternoon losses, finishing at 10,046.15, a slight fall oo the day. Property shares pulled the

market out of its stupor, as the government announced it would allow mortgage loans of up to 85 per ceot of a property's value, attracting lower income buyers to the market. Sun Hung Kai, Hong Kong's

largest property company, rose 3.2 per ceot to HK\$56.20. The main loser was HSBC Holdings. which fell 1.3 per cent.

FRANKFURT

THE CO-ORDINATED interest rate cut by countries participating in the European Single Currency gave European markets a boost yesterday with the DAX finishing at

4.812, a 2 per cent rise on the day. The raily was led by banking shares, with Deutsche Bank rising 3 per cent to close at 99 marks. Deutsche Telekom rose by 3 per to end the day at 49 marks.

"This is a good buying opportunity, and I think the rate cut was sensible in the light of a slowing European economy," one dealer commented.

مكذا من الاصل

Rate cuts may herald more gloom

EUROPEAN CENTRAL bankers seem to be doing a passable imitation of those cartoon characters who keep running beyond the cliff edge, but suddenly plunge earth-wards when finally they come to look down. The bankers looked down, and decided interest rate cuts might be a good idea after all

It is only a month since the head of the new European Central Bank. Wim Duisenberg said lower borrowing costs were unnecessary - a message repeated in briefings by other European central bankers. and it is less than two months since the G7 poured cold water on the idea that a round of co-ordinated interestrate cuts was needed; 54 central banks around the globe have since, coincidentally, cut rates.

These cuts, which include two in Britain, are a welcome enough response to global financial turmoil and the related economic slowdown. It is a relief to know that even the most hawkish of bankers - and they do not come any tougher than the Bundesbank's Hans Tietmeyer - have recognised the need to stabilise the

But hold on a minute. If even the most reluctant central bankers now dmit there is a need to take action,

OUTLOOK

what does that say about the outlook? A great deal seems to be the answer, and it is almost uniformly gloomy. Nowhere on the planet is there unremittingly good economic news; even in the roaring US economy the picture is mixed. While it is true that Alan Greenspan has been cutting US interest rates mainly to prime the world economy, rather than for domestic reasons, his motives are not entirely altruistic. The US cannot remain immune to what's going on

Even more worrying is the pos-sibility that financial markets hold more nasty and destabilising surprises. The Brazil rescue package is on the rocks, with the IMF and G7 committed to defending the indefensible. Given the slightest chance the markets will sink the Brazilian currency with the same gusto as they did the Russian rouble. Other turbulence may lie in store as banks and funds try to unwind earlier loss-making positions before the year-end.

So far, the main Western equity markets have been able to shrug off any setbacks. The extraordinary persistence of the post-war bull market has taught investors that it pays to buy on the dips. What Alan Greenspan described two years ago as irrational exuberance seems to

have become eternal exuberance.

What's more, this may be justified.

Central banks seem prepared to flood their markets with liquidity for the sake of economic stability. Cheaper money means more expensive financial assets, and that includes equities. Thus even in a recession, when earnings and dividends can be expected to fall, equities are going to be dragged up in value in line with bonds. That, in any case, is the logic of the process. One day the stock market bubble will burst - but not until the bankers feel they can reverse course - or to put it another way, not until inflation starts to look more likely than deflation once more.

BTR/Siebe

NOBODY SEEMS much to like Siebe's planned merger with BTR. Siebe's shareholders worry that the merger will dilute their company's quality image, and that BTR will prove as unmanageable for Siebe's Allen Yurko as it plainly has been for his opposite number at BTR, Ian Strachen.

Meanwhile BTR shareholders complain that the takeover-for that is what it is in essence - is without premium and does nothing to correct the appalling loss of value they've ex- one else out of the tree. perienced. Furthermore, they seem to be contributing rather more than half the combined turnover and profits for rather less than half its shares. They question whether the injection of Siebe's management is worth that kind of dilution.

BTR's share price has been in more or less relentless decline ever since Ian Strachen was appointed with the brief of dismantling the sprawling industrial conglomerate created by Sir Owen Green and transforming it into a "focused engineering group". Nobody can fault the underlying sense of this; the problem is that once committed to a pro-

first, leaving the dross behind. There is certainly a suspicion that this is what has happened at BTR and that this is one of the reasons its profits are in such precipitous decline.

All the same, hope springs eternal and many BTR shareholders continue to believe there's recovery -value in the rump. Plainly Mr Yurko is not going to agree a renegotiation of the terms; he's got enough explaining to do to his own shareholders as it is. So BTR's only hope is that the Siebe deal will shake some-

With the shares now trading at a 7 per cent premium to the value of Siebe's offer, the market is saying that this is not altogether impossi ble. A year ago, if anyone had come shopping with an offer of, say, 160p a share cash, he would have been sent away with a flea in his ear. Today shareholders would bite his hand off in their desperation to accept the

There are at least four US engineering companies for whom BTR would make a good fit, though some of these might have a competition problem in bidding. Alternatively one

gramme of wholesale asset sales, it companies might like to chance management accounts. GUS says is the saleable hits that tend to go their arm with a management buyin. their arm with a management buyin. Both possibilities seem remote, but there's still a chance someone's going to spoil the party.

GUS/Argos

LORD WOLFSON, chairman of Great Universal Stores, just cannot seem to get this Argos business out of his system. He reckons the former Argos directors made inaccurate statements during the heat of the bid battle, and he wants them to suffer a public humiliation to make up for

How the language flowed yesterday. The Takeover Panel should show the former Argos team the yellow card, he said. There were clear breaches of the rules and the ref should act. Failure to do so would turn bids into a car-boot sale, be firmed.

Let us look at the facts. In its early defence documents, Argos said sales in its five start-up stores in Holland were "ahead of expectations". Under the terms of the code, companies are supposed to inform the market of "any material change to any information". Having now got hold of the sales in Holland were 40 per cent below forecasts by the end of the bid.

This is being disputed. Sales may have dipped below forecasts in some weeks, but taken cumulatively sales were ahead of expectations throughout the entire duration of the bid. Was this a change that should have been

Having been turned down by the Panel once. Lord Wolfson has made a renewed approach, but his "fresh information" does not seem to have made the executive change its mind. Note, Lord Wolfson is not claiming that these allegedly misleading state-ments caused him to increase his offer for Argos. Nor is he saying that as a result he paid too much or that be has been sold a pup. But Lord Wolfson is not giving up. He is fighting on a point of principle which his advisers say is a "noble act".

If he loses, sharebolders might think otherwise. He is already in danger of appearing vindictive. Using shareholders' money to fight a court case on a point of principle he looks unlikely to win, and which even be admits has inflicted no damage, would be a very strange act indeed. Lord Wolfson has had his tantrum.

News Analysis: Two of Britain's most powerful dynasties hope to revive an ailing bank

Fleming cements g ties with Keswicks

BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

to have made its fortimes in Hong Kong, yesterday cemented its tie with the Flemings, one of Britain's oldest banking families, in a complex deal which sees it increasing its stake in the City merchant bank Robert Fleming, from 5 per cent to 17

Under the terms of the agree-ner's struck between Robert Flereng and the Keswick's main the first half and despite its Hong Kong investment vehicle Jardine Matheson, Robert Fleming will take full control of Jardine Fleming, its 28-yearold Far Eastern investment banking joint venture.

In return Jardine will receive £40m in cash and new Robert rience in the UK been particu-Fleming shares, diluting the larly happy. They came to the Fleming family members' stake from 35 per cent to just over 30 per cent. A second Jardine representative, Rodney Leach, will join Henry Keswick on the Robert Fleming board.

a further tidying up exer-Fleming is also buying out Martin & Co, the South African stockbroker from their joint venture Fleming Martin.

The announcement coincided with a sharp fall in profits at Robert Fleming. They were down from £91.1m in the same period last year to £20.8m.

John Manser, the Robert Fleming chairman, yesterday hailed the deal as a great step forward. He said it would enable the firm to redeploy staff and capital more freely within the business and allow more scope for common systems.

suggested retail price

Quite a lot has changed in the 28 years since we set up Jar-THE KESWICK family, one of the one thing it is a more global most powerful British dynasties world. It is also a world which works on a lun regional basis."

However, the decision to increase the firm's exposure to Asia at a time when others are reigning back is brave. Unsurprisingly, there was an enthusiastic reaction in Hong Kong where most of the recent traffic has been in the other direction.

Jardine Fleming lost £2.3m in prominent position in the merger and acquisition advisory league tables - the investment bankers' Holy Grail - it has had to be pruned back as new issue activity has all but dried up.

Nor has the Keswicks' experescue of Trafalgar House when it was nearly sunk by its investment in Davy, a North Sea engineering firm. The investment was not a success, and they sold out to Kvaerner the Norwegian shipbuilding and construction group that was desperate for a

The Keswicks fared little better with their investment via their food industry group Dairy Farm in the cut-price retailer Kwik Save. With sales plummeting, Kwik Save merged with Somerfield earlier this year

When whispers first started in the City that something big was afoot at Robert Fleming, many observers expected more dramatic news, like a decision to put the firm up for sale or seek a stock market quotation.

Critics said that Robert Flem-



Henry Keswick (left) is on the board of Robert Fleming, whose chairman is John Manser

	MERGERS A	AND A	COUL	SITIONS - HOW RO	BERT	FLEN	AING RANKS	
	Con	pleted at	nd unco	nditional deals, 1 January 199	8 to 2 De	cember	1998	
	WORLDWIDE			ASIA			EUROPE	
Rank	Adviser	Value Sbn	Rank	Adviser	Value Sbn	Rank	Adviser	Value 5br
1	Goldman Sachs	489.2	1	Goldman Sachs	6.7	1	Goldman Sachs	173.0
2	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter	414.4	2	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter	4.7	2	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter	172.7
3	Merrill Lynch	407.7	3	Schroder Group	3.1	3	Credit Suisse First Boston	94.0
4	Salomon Smith Barney	287.9	4	China International Capital	2.9	4	Warburg Dillon Read	81.4
5	Credit Sulsse First Boston	266.1	5	Warburg Dillon Read	2.7	5	JP Morgan	73.7
6	Lehman Brothers	210.0	6	Bt Alex.Brown/Wolfenson	2.3	6	Deutsche Bank	71.5
7	Lazard Houses	198.3	7	Salomon Smith Barney	2.0	7	Lazard Houses	69.6
8	JP Morgan	159.6	8	JP Morgan & Co	1.5	8	Rothschild	55.8
9	Warburg Dillon Read	155.4	9	Lehman Brothers	1.4	9	Merrill Lynch	55.7
10	Chase Manhattan Corp	102.4	10	Grant Samuel and Associates	0.75	10	Schroder	49.3
44	Robert Fleming	6.2	13	Robert Fleming	0.62	30	Robert Fleming	5.5

ings is at a crossroads – over the last few weeks there have been a number of high-profile departures, including Tony Chambers, the chief executive of banking, and Patrick Gifford, the well-respected chairman of Fleming Investment Trust Management. The firm insists that the departures were amicable, but there is little doubt that there is un-

happiness within the firm. Some outside shareholders are also pushing for an exit. But the idea of floating the firm on the stock market or of selling out to a bigger outfit has been opposed by Mr Manser and William Garrett, the chief executive, both of whom have the family's support.

The firm's investment management business is doing well

visory side of the business was loss-making in the first half. Mr Manser refuses to comment.

Many are wondering whether the decision to build up the equity research and advisory business globally in an attempt to challenge the Lazards and the Morgan Stanley's has been a mistake. Despite a good run several years ago, and a strong position in both Asia and South Africa, the firm's global position has been sliding.

Mr Gifford, for one, is said to have become increasingly frustrated at the way the asset management side was being milked to pay for the unrealistic ambitions of the investment bankers. But his plan to spin off the asset management side and sell the investment banking business did but according to insiders the ad- not find favour with the board.

of buyers, however, ABN-Amro, the Dutch bank that owns Hoare Govett, JP Morgan, and Paribas, the French investment bank, have recently made approach-

es. All have been rebuffed. "I like hard times," said Mr Manser, "It sorts the men from the boys." In a world of financial services giants, Fleming is a rarity - a firm that is not only owned by a family trust but where family members' views

carry weight. Around 12 Flemings are active in the business. Some oddities, such as the insistence on guests consuming only beer, not wine, have disappeared. But others remain.

Despite having been London-based since 1900 when the original Robert Fleming moved

There would be no shortage his investment trust business from Dundee, the firm still wears its Scottishness on its sleeve.

> Its main non-family backers are Scottish institutions such as Baillie Gifford and Stewart Ivory. The firm also owns the most extensive private collection of Scottish art in existence. It is a structure that many see

> as an anachronism which leaves them ill-equipped to cope with an increasingly competitive world. The unravelling of the Jardine ioint venture has long been talked about and is sensible as far as it goes.

But there are those who fear it will only postpone the inevitable. "Flemings," said one frustrated non-family shareholder yesterday, "should be sold. It is punching way above its

RBS quashes talk of merger with Halifax

BY ANDREW VERITY

GEORGE MATHEWSON, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, yesterday dismissed sector and squashed rumours of a merger with the Halifax.

He said prospects for further banking mergers were receding because of high valuations and new accounting rules on the treatment of goodwill.

"The new rules are very negative for banks taking over other banks. So I don't see much prospect for consolidation in the sector in the coming year," be said.

ness with a range of different businesses and if we merged with them, where would the

growth come from?" sector, including UK building

Shares in RBS leapt 7 per cent yesterday as the bank reported full-year profits up 32 per cent to £1.001 bn, well above forecasts. The shares closed up mounting talk of a fresh round 62p at 932p, valuing the group of consolidation in the banking at £7.67bn. Profits at the main 62p at 932p, valuing the group UK retail bank rose by 15 per cent to £780m as it boosted its volume of loans and stabilised lending margins.

Analysts were impressed by a turnaround at Direct Line, the wholly-owned insurer which suffered a slump three years ago as other insurers began to copy its methods. Helped by bardening motor insurance premiums, profits at Direct Line rose 78 per cent to £64m.

Mathewson added: "Halifax is bank to set aside £146m to a legacy business - It is what it cover bad debts in Indooesia. has been rather than what It is Provision for other bad debts going to be. It does not fit very increased by 26 per cent to well with what we do. We are a cover extra risks associated fast-moving, innovative busi- with its credit card businesses.

New retail ventures, including partnerships with Tesco and Virgin, made a loss of £52m due to start-up costs. This was But Mr Mathewson said the offset by the sale of part of a bank still had an appetite for stake in Banco Santander the other acquisitions outside the Spanish bank, for £57m. Its US subsidiary, Citizens, saw profsocieties "at the right price". its rise by 31 per cent to £247m.

Reed surprises City with profits warning

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, yesterday surprised investors with a warning that its profits were likely to fall 6 per cent in the year to December.

Shares in Reed International, the group's UK-listed holding company, dropped 10.5p to 443p as Reed Elsevier forecast that pre-tax profits for the year were likely to be £770m -

lower than the expected £800m. Reed blamed the shortfall on lower sales as a result of the Asian crisis and higher spending on its electronic publishing businesses. "We had already

signalled a weakness in the economy and an increased investment in our cost base, said Mark Armour, Reed finance director. "Over the past two months the economic situation has deteriorated."

He said greater competition in the US was squeezing Lexis-Nexis, its online legal and business database supplier.

Analysts responded to the news by slashing their profit forecasts for 1999 from about

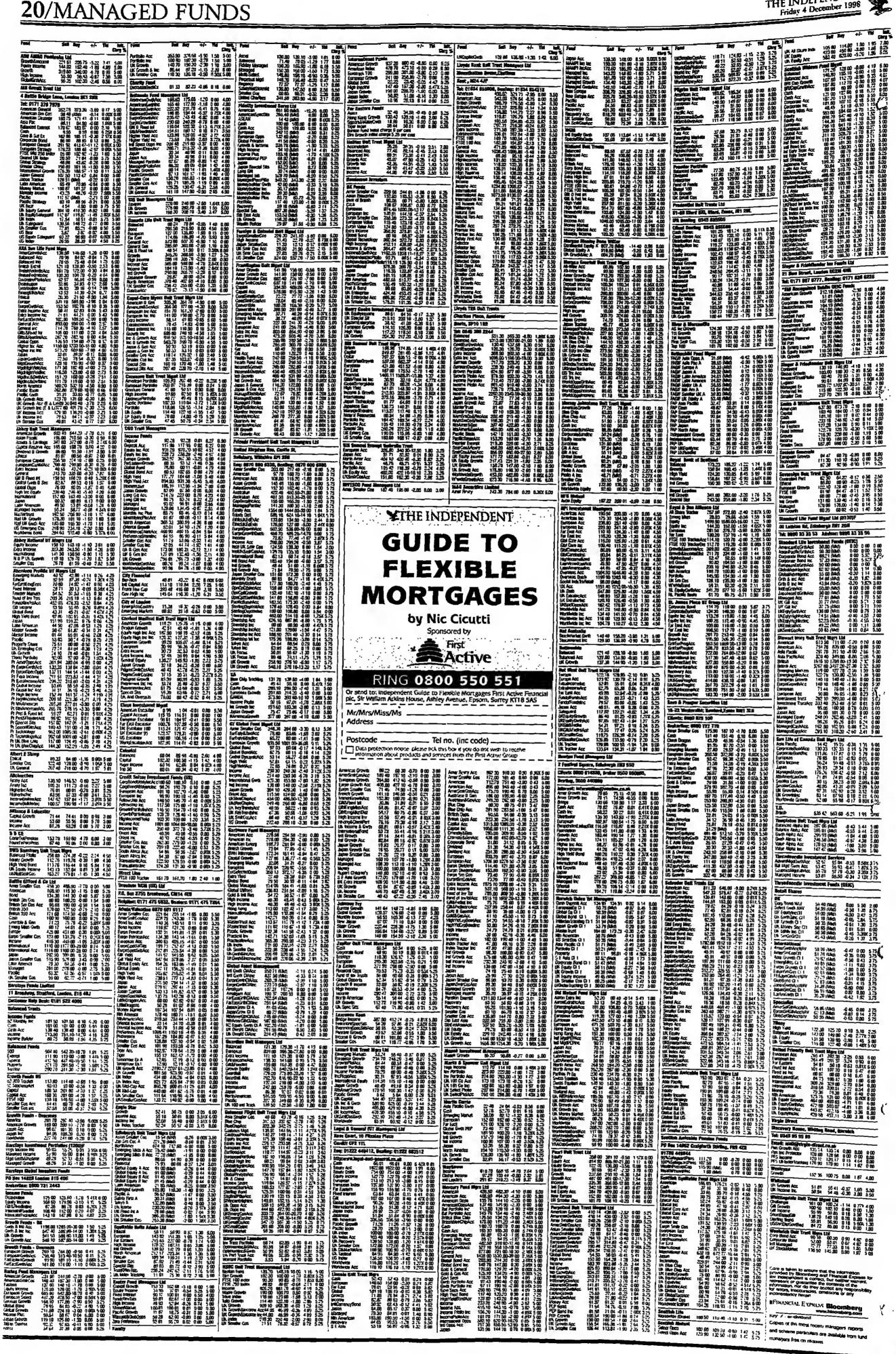
£845m to £800m. Louise Barton of Henderson Crosthwaite said: "We knew profits would be down. It's the scale of the downturn that's the

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Even Goldman turns cool on world equities

BONDS WILL outperform equities over the coming year as stagnating world economic growth knocks corporate profits. Goldman Sachs, the leading US investment bank, predicted

Speaking at the bank's annual assessment of global prospects, even Abby Cohen. Goldman's notorious stock market bull, sounded a cautious note about equities.

Ms Coben, who doggedly stuck to her upbeat 1998 forecasts for US stocks despite the recent turmoil, said she was not as "exuberantly bullisb" as she had been in the past.

She said: "For most of the last year the [US stock] market has been roughly at fair value. [US] ock prices can rise in 1999, but a more normal rate."

According to Ms Coben, the resilient nature of the US economy means that US corporate profits will continue to rise next year, despite the difficulties in the global economy.

She said: "The analogy for the US economy is a supertanker. It may not be the fastest-moving, but it is among the steadiest."

Gavyn Davies of Goldman's, a highly-rated City economist with close links to the Labour Party, also warned that the remarkable rise in global stock spread belief that the bond

sustainable. He said: "We are not going to get double-digit equity returns [in 1999]. If we do, we will start worrying about a hubble. If we see returns like in recent years, this will qualify as a major overshooting."

> GOLDMAN SAYS...

■ World growth to stagnate US and UK to slow, Asia to recover ■ Global bond returns to exceed global equity returns

■ UK stock market to move sideways ■!nterest rates to fall further

Mr Davies believes global equity returns will be around 5 per cent next year, while bond returns are likely to lie between 6 and 7 per cent.

Goldman's views are in line with many leading investment houses, where there is a wide-

Also, as with many City forecasters, Goldman Sachs is gloomy about UK economic prospects. Little growth is expected in the UK stock market next year, and the UK economy is predicted to grow at just 0.5 per cent, significantly less than Treasury and Bank of

England forecasts. According to David Walton, chief UK economist, UK market analysts have been far too optimistic about the outlook for corporate earnings.

He said: "Analysts' earnings expectations are much too high at over 10 per cent. An outturn of zero is about the maximum likely. The UK equity market is forecast to trade sideways."

Mr Davies said this over-optimism about corporate profits was not confined to the UK, and predicted that growth in the OECD countries would slow from 2.2 per cent this year to 1.6 per cent in 1999. World growth is forecast to

remain unchanged at 1.8 per cent, largely because of recovery in much of Asia. A devaluation of the Chi-

nese currency or a drying up of deflation - that is, falling prices credit lines to borrowers in Latin America or Central Europe represent the two higgest downside risks to the central forecasts, says the bank.

There are few global infla-

said, and there is even a risk of ing 1999. Mr Davies said: "Our telecommunications and informodels do not indicate that a mation services number bubble has appeared in bonds. -if central banks fail to respond Bond yields could drop anothappropriately to slowing er 40 to 50 basis points."

Abby Cohen says US stock prices can climb in 1999, but 'at a more normal rate'

عكذا من الملصل

This low inflation environ-On a sectoral basis, Goldman ment favours bonds, and Gold-Sacbs favours services and man Sachs predicts that bond technology-based consumer stocks are unlikely to do well. markets in recent years was not market now offers good value. tionary pressures. Mr Davies yields will fall even further dur- and capital goods - media, the bank said.

among the bank's favoured sec-

Consolidation could produce "extraordinary gains" in financial stocks, while energy

Depositors rage at \$1bn **BCCI** closure

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE COST of winding up BCCL. the corrupt bank closed by regulators in 1991, is eventually set to break \$1bn, with fees paid to British accountants and lawyers totalling \$330m by 15 October, creditors beard yes-

More than 250 depositors of BCCL owed a total of \$2bn by the bank, held the annual meeting of their BCCI Depositors' Protection Association (DPA) in London yesterday.

Having flown in mainly from the Middle East and Far East, the depositors heard that the global cost of liquidating the bank had already passed

"The costs are enormous," said Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East, who has acted as coordinator for the campaign for BCCI's victims since its collapse. "We need to question the rates charged by those handling the liquidation. It has been going on for eight years and could go on for another eight."

The meeting's anger was mainly directed at the Bank of England, which provided BCCI with a hanking licence in the 1980s and then belped close it down with other banking reg-

ulators in 1991, The liquidator Deloitte & Touche, depositors and MPs argued that the Bank of England should either make a settlement over its part in regulating BCCI or publish its own internal records to prove its inno-

Adil Elias, chairman of the DPA, said that although 46 per cent of BCCT's \$12bn losses had been repaid by the liquidators, depositors still faced heavy losses, and the Bank of England was partly responsible.

Mr Elias said that "if there is ever to be liability on a public official for abuse of office in this country, then the Bank of England will be held liable either by the courts here or in Eu-

The liquidators are preparing a legal claim for £600m against the Bank of England. Yesterday's meeting unanimously agreed that the Government should release the previously unpublished parts of the Bingham report into the collapse of BCCL in order to establish the Bank's responsibility. The Bingham report was published in 1991 but its lengthy appendices were kept secret.

Mr Vaz asked Alistair Darling when be was appointed chief secretary to the Treasury on Labour's election last year, to read the appendices and decide whether they should be published. Mr Darling did so and decided against publica-

Mr Vaz is tabling three motions in the Commons today, one urging full publication of the Bingham report, another recommending another meeting of all BCCI's remaining creditors, who last met five years ago, and a third motion concerning the treatment of funds held by the liquidators on behalf of credi-

Earnings slump knocks LIG shares

SHARES IN London Interna- BY SIMON DUKE tional Group, makers of Durex slumped yesterday as the com-

in sales of medical gloves came first-half loss of £9.8m.

31.1

condoms and Marigold gloves, plunged by 31 per cent to 130p. The group reported a 14 per pany announced a fall in first-half earnings and issued a profits to £7.9m and said that "full-year profits are unlikely to The City had expected lower match those achieved in gerims owing to the launch of 1997/98". After a £15m restruc-Durex in the US, but the slump turing charge, LIG posted a

tive, said the figures "reflected the impact of the US launch of Durex condoms and the transition of our examination glove business towards the manu-

facture of a premium range". The group has been hit by an unexpected fall in sales of its standard medical gloves, which it had boped to maintain at a high level as it makes the tranHodges said: "We were hoping to sell more standard gloves while we were moving into that sector, but the market is in a very difficult situation of overcapacity and falling prices." He also cited cheaper Asian imports.

sales down by 10 per cent owing curities cut his full-year profit

polymer-coated gloves. Mr LIG, which bas a plant in Malaysia, was also hit by the collapse of the ringgit. It was forced to cancel a forward exchange-rate bedge. incurring an exceptional loss of £2m.

Analysts were surprised the company had not mentioned the sales slump at a briefing last Condom sales fell, with US month. Michael King of SG Se-

IN BRIEF

Marston plea to shareholders

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the brewer under attack from its rival Wolverhampton & Dudley, vesterday urged shareholders to approve the disposal of its tenanted pubs at a meeting on 9 December.

Marston suggested that Wolverhampton would not allow its bid to lapse if the vote went ahead, adding that the bid deserved to be debated over the full 60 days allowed by the timetable. A spokesman for Wolverhampton said the announcement smacked of "desperation".

Biotech code

BIOTECHNOLOGY companies are to publish a voluntary code of practice in a hid to rebuild investors' confidence in the beleaguered sector. The BioIndustry Association, the biotech trade body, yesterday pledged to publish a draft code by next month and a final code by next year.

Stakis focus

STAKIS, the botels and casino group, wants to look at overseas opportunities, as the group's nearly exclusive focus on the UK could hold it back in years to come. The Glasgow-based company added yesterday that it would be looking at larger transactions. The group increased annual pre-tax profits before exceptionals by 33 per cent to £74.4m.

Drugs merger

SYNTHELABO, majority owned by l'Oreal, confirmed its merger yesterday with Sanofi, controlled by energy group Elf Aquitaine, to form Europe's sixth-largest pharmaceutical company The merger of Sanofi and Synthelabo, ranked second and third in the French drug sector, will produce a group with combined sales of Fr35hn.It will have three blockbuster drugs; Stilnox/Ambien for insomnia, Aprovel/Avapro for hypertension, and the Plavix anti-blood clotting agent.

COMPANY RESULTS

0.000	, at 110 ter (2)					
ALT Group (I)	8 43m (6 71m)	1 262m (0.958m)	4 17p (3.33p)	0.836 (-1		14.12.98
Abbeyerest (1)	26,07mi25 16m)	0 608m (0 308m)	1 8p(0 9p)	1 Gp)1 5p)		14,12 98
Airsprung Ferniture (t)	40 7m)41 68m)	-6 12m(1,61m)	-25 Böpt4.04p)	1 95p(1 95p)		04.01.95
Aertech Interpational(I)	1.25m(935 6m)	-0.275m(-0.233m)	-1.4p(-1.4p)	-(-)		
Aron Rubber(F)	267 1m(290 6m)	23 2)19.3m)	59 Bp(47.3p)	22 Bp(21.15p)		21,12 9
Bees (F)	4 6096(5.2546)	834m(477m)	78.3p(28.2p)	30.0p(27 5p)		14 12 98
Border Television(I)	9.46m(7 Bm)	0 180m(0 822m)	1.10(5.20)	2.7p(2.7p)		08 03 99
Castings(1)	32.88m(30.75m)	5.73m(4.71m)	9 18p(7.58p)	2 02p(1 68p)		21.12 98
CCM Distribution(F)	22.37m(22.53m)	1 35m(1 93m)	0 58p(0.82p)	-(-)		
Des Valley Grupp(I)	10.26m(9.51m)	4 85m(4.66m)	25 540(24 420)	7.20(6.50)		14 12.90
Desky(F)	35 399m/36 483m)	6.91m(6.84m)	14.0p(13.9p)	4 95014 5501		14 12 9
Dewburst(F)	18.22m(16.98m)	1 64m(1.2m)	10.420(7.270)	3 75p(2.88p)		17 01 9
Expre International Group(t)		10 11m(10 03m)	11.19(11.79)	3.4013 0501		29 12 98
Seneral Electric Company(I)		1.393b(415m)	11 4p(10 0p)	4.2p(3 81p)		15 02 99
Great Universal Stores(I)	2.353b(1.505b)	176 1m(261 1m)	13 Tp(16.9p)	6 2pi6 0p)		04 01.99
Screencers Copus(F)	1R592 05m(466 9m)	58.2m(49.72m)	25.70(22 40)	5 650(5 10)		14 12 98
Kartstone Green(f)	59.38m(86 66m)	4 51mi-34 50mi	1.3p(-10 9p)	-1-)		
Kalamacoo Corapater Groups	1) 32 02m(33,6m)	-0 550m(-0 514m)	-1.14p(-7.0p)	-(-)		
Landon International Group (T) 143 5m(155.6m)	-7 9(9.2m)	-2.84p(1.65p)	0 9p(0 8p)		14.12.98
MS Intermediana((I)	15.85m(14.31m)	0.522m(0.200m)	1.20(0.40)	0.25p(0.1p)		29.12.98
Wid Kent Holdlags(I)	22 83mt21 35mt	9 06m(3.37m)	44 50(39.00)	14 77p/13 2p)	-	08 03 99
Plant Holdings(I)	4.51m (2.94m)	0.729m(-0.160m)	0.7p(0.1p)	·(-)		
Raphael Zorn Hebrasby(F)	9 15m(7.14m)	2.81m(1.44m)	12,4p(B.5p)	3 Op(2 5p)		04 01 99
Royal Bank of Scottand Graft	F) *3.6b(2.9b)	1 0015(760m)	73.40(55.40)	24 60(21 40)		14.12 98
Sira Business Services(I)	5.904m(5 160m)	0.442m(0.430m)	0.130(0.13)	0 04p(0.03p)		14 12 98
Statis (F)	359m(307m)	69.4m(56.Dm)	7.38p(6.58p)	3 00p(2.50p)		08 03.99
Tandoox Group (I)	17 596m(20.798m)	-1 012m(-0 202m)	-1.11p(-0.25p)	-(-)		
VideoLogic Group (1)	4 161mi5.457m)	-0.378m(-2.928m)	-0.2p(-1.9p)	40	-	
Wren (t)	*1 06m(1 39m)	3 17m(1.70m)	4.64p(3.61p)	1 00p(-)		14 12,98
(F) - Final (f) - Importon (O) -	Quarterly (SP) - Split Pe	eine ath Man Marche	Vincome			

HSBC (X) Midland Private Banking

Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 3 December 1998

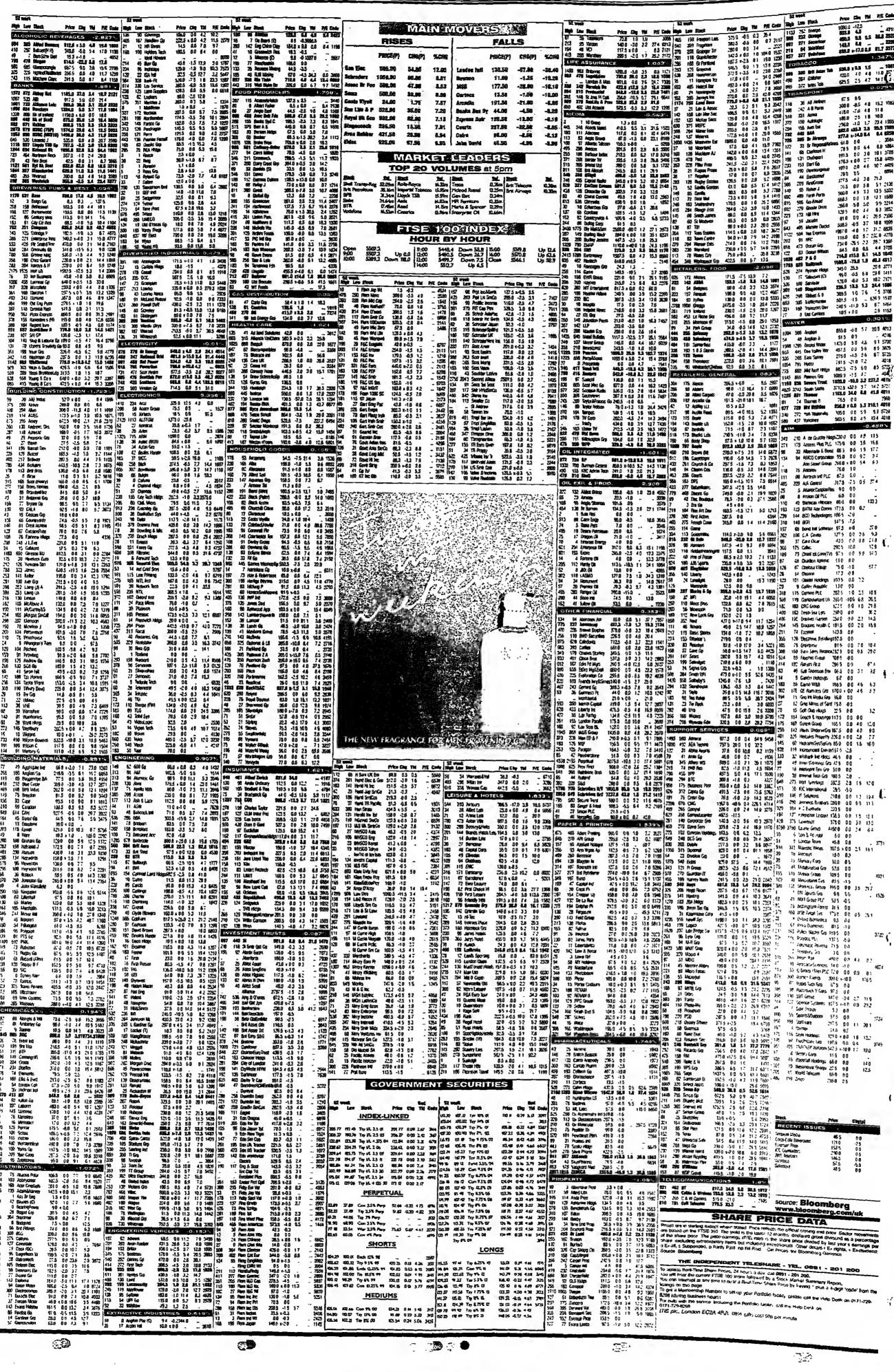
	Gross %	Previous Gross %	Net %	Previous Net %
Private Backing Current Account (1)				
Up to £2,000	0.50	1.00	0.40	0.80
£2,000+	1.49	1.49	1.19	1.19
£10,000+	2.96	3.21	2.36	2.56
£50,000+	3.45	3.45	2.76	2.76
	Gross %	Previous Gross %	Net %	Previous
Private Banking Sevings Account (1) (monthly interest option)				
Up to £10,000	5.61	6.08	4.48	4.86
£10,000+	5.80	6.27	4.64	5.01
£50,000+	5.89	6.37	4.71	5.09
£100,000+	6.16	6.65	4.94	5.32
Private Banking Savings Account (1)				
Up to £10,000	5.75	6.25	4.60	5.00
£10.000+	5.95	6.45	4.76	5.16
£50,000+	6.05	6.55	4.84	5.24
£100,000+	6.35	6.85	5.08	5.48
Investment Management Cash held on the Capital Account within our h following rates:	ovestment Man Gross %	Previous	e will earn im	Previous
		Gross %	4.55	Net %
Up to £5,000	1.50	1.50	1.20	1.20
£5,£00+	5.64	6.11	4.51	4.88
£10,900+	5.83	B.30	4.66	5.04
E50,000+	5.92	6.40	4.73	5.12
E700.000+	6.21	6.69	4.96	5.35

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax epptied to interest on savings. Net the rate after the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings accounts, currently 20%. Higher rate, tax payers will have en additional Hability (1) This product is no longer available to new austomers.

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Reed's own goal stuns the pundits

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SURPRISE PROFTT warnings - the stock market equivalent of own goals - are becoming a bit of a habit. Yesterday it was Reed Elsevier's turn to kick the ball into its own net.

The Anglo-Dutch giant's pre-Christmas present came a day after Arcadia, the fashion retailer, spectacularly wrong-footed the Square Mile. Reed blamed rising competition and tough Asian markets for the downturn, but analysts were left furning by the extent of the earnings shortfall. They had a number of chats with the company in recent months and had not got the impression things were that bad.

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"The scale of the downturn was larger than we thought," said one despairing analyst before moving to 6 ession. To mix sporting slash 1998 forecasts by around 6 per

Reed's shares were suitably punished as brokers turned their surprise into sell orders. The stock 10.5p down at 443p. Arcadia, the owner of the Burton and Top Shop chain, continued to feel the pmch of Wednesday's shocker and lost 21p to 191.5p after Morgan Standay downgaz ded



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Footsie was restless, ending up 58.9 points at 5,566.1 after a volatile metaphors, the hlue-chip index swung like an England tail-ender for most of the day. It went down by 118 in the morning as worries over Wall Street and a gloomy CBI survey spurned analysts' revenge left the dominated. But at lunchtime a raft of interest-rate cuts in the eurozone came to the rescue, fuelling hopes of a similar move by the Bank of England next week. The more optimistic dealers are even talking of mother half-point drop.

The second-liners were much more consistent, remaining on a er at 895p and Abbey National, 37p downward slope through the day. The medium cap finished down 47.8 at 4,756.6, while the small cap ended 15.4 lower at 2,021.4.

GEC led the blue-chips higher with a 12 per cent rise to 505p. The defence giant posted good profits and revealed that it is close to using its cash pile for a mega-deal with a rival: French groups Alcatel and Thomson-CSF are the market's favourites. The eternal tip, British Aerospace, up 22.5p to 500p, is also on the list.

Associated British Foods, annual meeting today, was boosted by speculative huying and digested a 47p rise to 598p without problems.

Financials were in good form. Royal Bank of Scotland put on 7 per cent to 932p after pleasing analysts with a 32 per cent rise in profits. Schroders went against the grain and advised to switch to Bank of Scotland, up 35p to 675p. The rest of the pack was huoyed by interest rates hopes. Sun Life & Provincial, 35.5p higher to 528.5p and Allied Zurich, up 34p to 851p. earn the pick of the insurans.

stronger at 1185p, batted for the

Among the Footsie losers, Railtrack was shunted into the sidings

VITAL, a financial services specialist, made its debut on the junior Ofex yesterday after raising £225,000 through a placing and open offer. The Manchester firm has reversed into the British Taxpayers Self Assessment PLC (BASIC).

BASIC was an onsuccessful attempt to set up a company to help penple with tax selfassessment firms. Vital, which handles the financial affairs of several Mancunian high-fliers. closed unehanged at 5p.

with a 73p loss to 1.589p after Merrill Lynch downgraded. British Airways nosedived 14p to 377p after reporting weak passenger yields.

Retailers were on the cut-price shelves. GUS started the sale: slow growth at the Argon stores and its found little solace. London In-

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence LASMO

DIFMAMIJASOND mail order catalogue pushed the stock down 25p to 549p. A set of dire retail numbers from the CBI compounded the retailers' plight. Tesco headed the Footsie fallers with an 8p plunge to 166p. Kingfisher, a recent stalwart. dropped 18.5p to 526.5p, while Next was not looking

smart after a 17p fall to 427p. The market turned to sex hut

Coats

Viyella

may sell

division

COATS VIYELLA, the clothing and

textiles manufacturer, yesterday

announced that it was in talks to of-

fload its precision engineering di-

The company said that since de-

ferring the demerger of the Viyel-

la business, the group has received

several approaches for its precision

engineering division, and discus-

sions are in their early stages with

eroded the company's competi-

tiveness. It posted a loss of £30m

for the six months to June, com-

pared with profits of £24m the pre

A demerger of Coats and Vivel-

la, with Coats planning to retain the

eventually float it, was announced

poned in September due to market

Kazia Kantor, group finance di-

rector, said: "The credibility of the

interested parties and the size of

vious year.

turmoil.

The strength of sterling has

a number of potential buyers.

BY SIMON DUKE

doms, flagged over 30 per cent to 130.5p - the year's low - after warning of a slowdown in its plastic gloves business. Full-year forecasts were chopped by £7m to around

FAREWELL TO Netica, the publisher of an Internet car magazine. The company has appointed receivers and yesterday ceased trading on

Netica hoped to create an on-line market for used cars by pooling the stocks of 600 dealers on its www.autolocate. co.uk site. However, it run into trouble when a majnr media company did not exercise its option to huy into the company. Netica bowed out at 80.5p.

£40m. Flextech did hetter: the broadcaster hardened 16.5p to 619p after selling its stake in Playboy TV.

Two hotels groups found favour. Bass, the brewer which also owns the Inter-continental Hotels chain. Lebented good results and semidol Stakes said London is booming and checked in a 4p rise to 111p.

But no mid-capper could better Coats Vivella. The struggling textile group put on over 7 per cent to 24p after revealing plans to sell its precision engineering division. Lasmo vied for FTSE 250 top spot but was held to second place: the ailing oil explorer rose 7.5p to 127p on talk of a forthcoming hid. English China Clays, the minerals and chemicals group, moulded a 5.1 per cent rise to 184p after a positive meeting with analysts.

Norcros advanced 3.5p to 57p. The building materials group is said to being stalked by John Mansfield. loser in the battle for Marley. An offer of 80p a share could be on the cards. City Site, a Scottish property company, soared 2p to 32.5p after saying that the contractor Miller is talking about a 35p-a-share offer.

Masthead Insurance was up 8.5p to 115.5p after being bought by rival Lloyd's vehicle Wren for £49m.

SEAQ VOLUME: 998.5 million SEAQ TRADES: 65.034

Investment: Shift of focus in hotels and pubs pushes earnings up 75% to £834m

Bass profits rise brings back the fizz

BASS PROVIDED the beleaguered By NIGEL COPE brewing and leisure sector with some welcome relief yesterday when it reported a 35 per cent rise in profits at its new Inter-continental Hotels division. The group also said there had been some recovery in its pubs and brewing business fol-

lowing a poor summer.
Including £173m of exceptional items, pre-tax profits in the full year increased from £477m to £834m. liks said that hotel demand in the strong in the US and continental

year-on-year declines in current tressed markets in Asia. trading, but the performance of its couraging, the company said.

It has been a year of major cor-

Associate City Editor

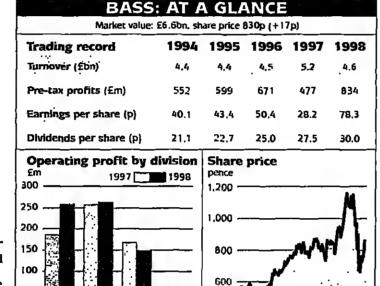
ness and 300 smaller, managed

Under Sir Ian Prosser, the group's chairman, Bass is gradually shifting the focus of the business. First, it is becoming more international, with 30 per cent of profits now coming from outside the UK following the Inter-continental

Second, the growing hotels business now accounts for 34 per cent of operating profit compared to 23 Like-for-like sales in its puhs per cent last year, and other lets and 3.9 per cent in All Bar One, and beer business are showing acquisitions are planned in dis-

Third, the focus of the pub estate key managed pub brands such as is being shifted towards branded, O'Neill's and All Bar One is en- managed pubs in the more resilient South-east of England.

Bass's 655 branded pubs, which porate activity for Bass, during which it acquired Inter-continental Rels for £1.8bn in March and group's 2,650-strong pub estate but sold husinesses worth £1.3hn, in- 40 per cent of its sales. They take ter through the day from coffee and cluding Gala bingo, its betting busi- an average of £16,000 a week, which croissant café har in the early



is double the portfolio's average. The top brands continue to out-perform, with underlying sales rising by 4.4 per cent in the Harvester outcompared to the 2.7 per cent rise across the group's pub estate.

The 108 O'Neill's pubs are being shifted away from the Irish theme as that trend starts to wane. The pubs are now being changed into "party pubs", with a further eight of these planned.

The new favourite is the Edwards hars, which change charac-

evening through to loud pre-nightclub pub hy 10pm. So far there are 30 Edwards outlets. Bass bas earmarked a possible £250m to invest in its branded estate this year, with the Edwards brand likely to take a considerable chunk.

96 97

The shares, which rose 17p to precision engineering unit and 830p yesterday, are well off their 635p low a month or so ago.

1,175p peak in the spring but have earlier in the year, but was postenjoyed a good bounce since their Analysts estimate that, strong

though the Bass brands are, the fragility of the UK economy is likely to mean that the shares will tread

their financial resources means a sale will exceed the value that a demerger could yield for our shareholders. The decision to sell rather than float has intrigued analysts, and has lead to speculation that a large fi-

nancial institution or international player has come to the table. Any hid would have to be significantly above market value, since a sale would see Coats incur

a £50m withholding tax charge in Analysts are negative about the

company, whose poor management bas presided over a fall from the FTSE-100, and a 90 per cent drop in market value over the past four However, one analyst maintained that at 24p per share, a 9 per

cent rise on the day, it did have latent value. "The precision engineering division is its hest business, and worth roughly £200m. With the market capitalisation currently at £165m, the hreak up value must be at least 50p per share."

'Stigma' case is Cherie's chance to shine

CHERIE BOOTH, wife of Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, launched the most important court battle of her harrister's career this week on behalf of 950 former employees of

The landmark case centres on the employees' claim that they now carry the stigma of once having worked for BCCL which was steeped in fraud, and as a result nobody wants to employ them.

The "stigma" claim is in turn a reaction to a claim brought by the liquidators of BCCI, Deloitte & Touche, who want the former employees to pay back the loans and mortgages they took out when they

worked for BCCL The stakes are high. If the employees win, they're set to get a chunk of the £536m the liquidators have set aside against the lty of a "stigma" victory.

And if Cherie Booth wins, her Next step the Woolsack?

STEVEN NORRIS, the former transport minister who already juggles his jobs as head of the Road Haulage Association and of the road-pricing think-tank CMTE with his candidacy for Mayor of London, has added another title to his collection.

Mr Norris, who made a £600,000 profit from the sale of hus operator Capital City to FirstGroup this year, has invested in a stake in Integrated Transport Information Services (Itis1. Mr Norris also becomes a di-

Itis, hased in Coventry, has developed an integrated transport information system that helps you avoid traffic jams.

Also at the event to mark Mr Norris's investment was Stuart Marks, the 32-year-old chairman who holds the majority stake. Mr Marks came to media prominence in 1996 when he was sacked as a director of Park Foods after mounting an unsucressful huyout plan for the business. which he joined in 1993. The outcome of the dispute was settled out of court earlier this year.

KENNY DALGLISH, footballer and manager, and Jim Kerr, lead singer of Simple Minds, announced they football club about a month ago. PEOPLE AND BUSINESS By John WILLCOCK

They then held a meeting with Celtic's board. One director asked Mr Kerr: "Would you sign an autograph for my daughter, who is a big fan of your tunes?" At which Mr Dalglish piped up: "She must have a long memory then."

IT MUST be nice to have \$500m (£300m) stuffed in your back pocket. Ghaith Pharaon is a global property billionaire who was closely associated with BCCI before it. went down. The courts in the Cayman Islands, one of BCCI's bases, place in legal history will be assured. recently made a \$2.1hn ruling against Mr Pharaon, saying this is the amount he should repay to

BCCI's creditors. Yesterday Mr Pharaon, who now lives in the Saudi port of Jeddah, made an offer through his UK barrister Julian Humfrey to Keith Vaz MP, who represents the UK creditors. Mr Pharaon offered \$500m to settle all claims against him. Mr Vaz says he has "passed the mes-

FURTHER EVIDENCE of Mr Pharaon's wealth is offered hy his son Laith Pharaon, who runs a power-boat racing team, a not inexpensive pursuit.

Last year Mr Pharaon Junior won the world championship with a team called "Zero Defect". The year before he won in a boat called The Jolly Motor. This year he competed in a boat called Bilbo, but lost to a team called "The Spirit of Norway".

MICK JONES, who resigned as managing director of Business Post Group in the summer, has popped up as chief executive of Amtrak, the Bristol-based parcel delivery company, in an institution-led huyout worth £86m. Amtrak was founded in 1987 by Roger Baines and his wife Elaine, and since then they huilt it were launching a hid to buy Celtic into a 330-franchise husiness using about 1,000 vehicles.

Graphics chip boosts Videologic

VIDEOLOGIC, the computer chip designer, is confident that it will be able to license its new graphics chip to several personal computer manufacturers early next year.

The company is in talks with bout 15 PC manufacturers about s PowerVR2 Series2 chip, which can deliver two-dimensional and three-dimensional graphics, making it especially useful for playing computer games.

No agreements have been signed yet, but analysts expect Videologic to clinch several deals early next year NEC, the Japanese group that manufactures the chips for Videologic, is preparing vol-

can

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

A deal with a large PC manufacturer would mark another step in the rehabilitation of Videologic, which has consistently disappointed investors in recent years despite being one of the UK's few truly hightech companies.

Earlier this year Sega, the Japanese electronics giant, selected Videologic's chip for its new Dreamcast games console.

The device, which is set to replace Sony's Playstation in the affections of computer game freaks, is currently selling at a rate of

Revenues from the contract helped Videologic reduce its pre-tax loss to £378,000 in the six months to September, compared to a £2.9m loss in the same period of last year. Brokers now forecast a profit of more than £3m for the full year.

"We have got our ducks much better lined up than we have in the past," said Geoff Shingles, Videologic's chairman, adding that the company had also dramatically reduced its cost base.

Although the company is keen to attract PC manufacturers, it points out that the revenue stream is essentially short term because sup-150,000 a week - even though it has pliers have to compete every time a new model is introduced - usually two or three-times a year.

Videologic is therefore also hoping to have its chips included in television set-top boxes. "In the future all home enter-

tainment is going to be centralised on that one box in your living room," said Patrick Yau, an analyst at Nomura, the Japanese

A reliable profits stream would allow institutional investors to take Videologic seriously again. However, analysts warned that the shares, which rose 2p to 52.5p yesterday, are still not particularly

"For the current year the shares are pretty fully valued, although you can make a longer-term case for them," said Mr Yau.

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Italian Bond	Dec-98	112.71	112.84	112.52	7367.00	12001.0
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SPORT

Rugby Union: Phil de Glanville will try to build a platform for the defeat of South Africa at Twickenham tomorror;

Former captain's case for defence

adopted a philosophical approach to the bouquet and tirickbat world nf professional rugby, which seems entirely appropriate for a player suspected by his critics of coining the maxim: "I tackle, therefore I am." Six confusing, often exasperating years in the international arena might easily bave left England's former captain questioning his own sanity, yet he has emerged from the labyrioth of self-doubt with his faculties, if not his Hollywood looks, wholly intact. "In this game," be says, "you go

high and you go low. The trick is to stay on an even keel."

Which is precisely where be inteods to positioo the English back division wheo they confront Henry Honiball, Andre Snyman and the rest of the Springbok record trunters at Twickenham tomorrow, Throughout his career, De Glanville bas beeo publicly belittled as pedestrian and one-dimensional, a mere manservant to the court of St Jeremy of Guscott, a commoner clad in Will Carling's ermine. No matter that he was, and is, the shrewdest of defensive organisers, the soundest of tacklers, the most effective of highball chasers. Some players, it seems, are born to play second fiddle.

Take a careful look at the statis-

tics. though, and the real story emerges; one that demonstrates just bow well De Glanville stacks up as an attacking midfielder. In the 21 Tests he has started since the autumn of 1993, England have scored 45 tries and conceded 33 - figures that compare favourably with the 53-35 ratio from the 23 games ta total that ignores the unrepresentative thern hemisphere matches last summer) in which be was not on the field from the outset. During his eight months as captain between November 1996 and the following July, his country's offensive forces caught fire as never before, running in 30 tries in the eight full internationals in which he participated.

In the pre-Clive Woodward era, bowever, England selection was all about perception rather than fact the altar of expediency more times

CHRIS HEWETT

Rowell should have picked him ahead of Guscott during the knockout stages of the 1995 World Cup but bottled out when the sheer scale of the heresy dawned on him. It was also patently obvious that De Glanville was in better shape than Carling during the 1996 Five Nations, yet Rowell again kept one eye on the potential discomforts of trial by in-quisition and sidestepped the hard

"Yes, I used to get very bet up about it all, but I slowly came to realise that all the anger was doing noone any good, least of all me," he said this week. "Perhaps it's my age, perhaps it's the fact that I have a baby son to care about now, but I've reached the stage where the ups and downs don't really affect me. I've seen it and heard it all so many times and I know that while I cootinue to play the game at this level, I'll see it and bear it all again. So yes, I think I'm completely philosophical about "I still find it mildly irritating that

people should automatically pigeonhole me as a defensive specialist and nothing else, but I can understand where they're coming from. I'm not foolish enough to pretend I'm much of a strike runner; my strengths lay in the unglamorous areas, the parts that don't catch the eye. But if you're going to break down these opponents on to him and create some space for others to exploit. You do what you do to the best of your ability. End of story.

"It's the same with selection. You either get picked or you don't. Looking at the current England squad, it's pretty clear that apart from a tiny handful of certainties - Lawrence Dallaglio, Martin Johnson, Jerry everyone is in there scrapping for a side centre position, it's obvious



that if Will Greenwood is fully fit and set-up. He may not choose you, but more of his coach."

Just as no coach could have asked Glanville gave against the Wallabies measured appraisal when a few su-this fanciful image of the Springboks and De Glanville was sacrificed on starting place. If you take my own in-perlatives are available, Woodward as an adventurous side, a running

playing to his ability, he'll continue "brilliant" via the merely "magnifi- to the other. But the reality is that did. We made a big statement as first choice. That's fine. I'm no cent" to describe his stand-in's con- they kick the ball more than any against the Wallables but we didn't Clive's communication skills are in singing De Glanville's praises, too. They kick it from deep, force the opsuch that you always feel part of the As the Springboks have proved over the 17 separate courses of their viche at least goes out of his way to give torious banquet, defence is oot only you a valid reason. No player can ask 50 per cent of the game, but the most important 50 per cent.

"They conceded a try a match in more of a late replacement than De the last Tri-Nations tournament and that is a winning formula," last weekeod; oever one for the agreed De Glanville. "Everyone has went from the common or garden unit that constantly moves the ball

position to turn and then hit them with the green wall. They are very, very patient - you can see that from the number of times they have come from behind to win close contests - and I have to say that had we followed their example last Saturday. we might well bave beaten the Australians. We fell into the trap of running unpromising ball back at them instead of kicking it back. We were a little naïve, I think. Of course it was

to accept that until we tie up a victory over one of the southern hemisphere powers, we'll stay on the wrong side of a very fine, but very visible line. We are their equals in a number of areas, but not in the ones that really matter - belief, confidence, killer instinct. One win could make all the difference, though. Just one win."

If it happens tomorrow, De ciating the irony of the occasion. For for a historic winning try.

Greenwood's current pre-eminence, possibly the last - he is about to start midfield partner at Bath for the best part of a decade. Both have cost the other a full seasoo's worth of international caps; thanks to Carling's longevity, the club mates were cast as rivals at international level-But the sentimentalists in the Twick. enham crowd especially those from the western reaches of the M4, will wonder what might have been if De Glanville, the fetcher, puts Guscott, Glanville will not be slow in appre- the carrier, over the Springbok line

England tackle Boks head on

THE SPRINGBOKS attempt a world By CHRIS HEWETT record 18th successive Test victory tomorrow having conceded precisely that number of tries in the 15 mooths since the God-fearing Carel du Plessis relinquistred coaching control to the apparently God-like Nick Mallett. Their defensive expertise is nothing short of astonishing sometimes, you wonder whether there might be 18 South Africans on the pitch - and according to Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain charged with restoring credibility to the wider European game as well as giving Clive Woodward the big-league breakthrough he craves, the Twickenham tackle count will be every bit as important as the try count.

"The Boks have certainly upped their defence since the Lions beat them and that improvement was the foundation stone of their recent Tri-Nations victory," said the Wasps flanker vesterday. "From a low base.

they have developed new levels of confidence, to the point that there seems an inevitability about their winning close games. If they beat us, I'm quite sure they will extend their record through the 20-Test mark. But that's a big 'if'. The record is a marvellous motivating factor for them, tut we, too, are motivated."

Mallett unbeaten in 16 Tests, saw his side concede three tries in each of the first two matches of his tenure. Since then, they have only twice shipped more than one: to Australia in Perth in July and to New Zealand in Durban a month later. Indeed, they can legitimately claim that their 17-match sequence has more to commend it than the undefeated run compiled by Brian Lochore's great All Black side of the 1960s. The New Zealanders played 11 of their matches on home soil while the Boks have secured 10 of

their victories on the road. Dallaglio agreed that the tourists' achievement in equalling the All Black landmark was "fantastic", but was even more positive about his own side's chances of success. "We should have beaten the Wallabies; indeed, had we played for the full 80 minutes, we would have," he said.

However Dallaglio's Lions experience must tell him that England cannot bope to prevail unless they kick their goals as well as make their tackles. While the Boks went into last year's series without a specialist kicker and paid for their folly, the Lions flatly refused to walk on to the Test paddock without Neil Jenkins in their armoury. Sadly, England do not possess a Jenkins, or anyone remotely like him. What they do possess is Matt Dawson and it remains to he seen whether the Northampton scrum-half passes as a highpressure marksman.

The man himself was gloriously

unperturbed yesterday by all the fuss ning the ball, which is what every surrounding his new and unex- one seems to want from our No 10s." pected role. "I didn't realise until I opened the morning papers how massive a story it had become," tie smiled, his tongue treading rapidly have a problem with it; in fact, I'm so relaxed about goal-kicking that if we had been given another kick at goal against the Wallables last week, I would have told Mike Catt (whose fluffed conversion 10 minutes from time effectively cost England the

he didn't want to take it. "I don't see it as a burden. I shouldered the responsibility of captain, scrum-half and kicker at Test level back in the summer and I'm happy that anything around the 45-metre mark is within my range. What this switch has done is relieve some of the burden off Mike. He's been brought back in at stand-off and tie can now coocentrate solely on run-

game) that I was available if he felt

For all that, Dawson is no more than an apprentice at this level and the Boks, pragmatic customers that they are, will use his inexperience towards his cheek. "I really don't as an excuse to infringe far more readily than might otherwise have

been the case. A couple of early misses will leave England uncomfortably wedged between a rock and a hard place, for it will be very difficult for them to go back to Catt following the events of the last few days. Andy Robinson, who coaches Catt at Bath, believes Woodward has got it wrong. "Mike has kicked well for us and I think the brave decision would have been to stick with him as kicker against the Boks," he said. "He's been criticised for missing one conversion, but England should not be tilaming him for last weekend's defeat. They should be looking inwards at their

Ireland asked to cross Australia

IRELAND WILL play their two in- the Madejski Stadium in Reading on ternationals against Australia in Brisbane and Perth oext year, the Australian Rugby Union has said.

in Brisbane oo 12 June, with the return Test oo the other side of the continent in Perth a week later. Ireland will begin their six-match tour against Victoria in Melbourne on 29 May followed by matches

Sydney on 5 June, and Queensland in Brisbane on 8 June. Australia and Ireland are drawn in the same pool for next year's World Cup and will meet at Lansdowne Road in Dublin on 10 Octo-

against the Super 12 sides, Aus-

tralian Capital Territory in Canber-

ra oo 1 June, New South Wales in

The Spain flanker, Jose Diaz. has been suspended for eight weeks after being sent off in his side's 21-17 World Cup qualifying victory over Portugal at Murrayfield in

Wednesday Diaz was shown a yellow card after 25 minutes for preventing Portugal taking a quick penalty, and then received his marching orders for telling the English referee. Steve Lander, what he thought of the decision. The ban was imposed by the and rules Diaz out of tomorrow's meeting with Scotland at the national

Spain won through to next year's World Cup thanks to their narrow win over Portugal - but it was the Portuguese who scored the only tries of the match, through Thiery Teixeira and Rohan Hofman.

Allan Bateman is set to return for his club, Richmond, in their Anglo-Welsh friendly against Cardiff at 12 December

Bateman is expected to make his first appearance for six and a half The Irish will play the Wallabies weeks after undergoing a shoulder operation which ruled him out of the Wales tests against South Africa and Argentina.

The 33-year-old Lioos centre had played a seven times for the Allied Dunbar Premiership side before the long-standing injury which had dogged him for seven years flared up, causing him to miss three crucial club matches.

Bateman's return will be a boost for the Wales coach, Graham Henry, tiefore this seasoo's Five Nations' Championship but the former rugby league man will have a fight to reclaim his place in the side.

His replacement, the Swansea centre Mark Taylor, produced two impressive displays in the narrow defeat to South Africa and against the Argentina. when he scored a try.



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Murray bringing centre's eye to the wing

CAMMY MURRAY may have vacated centre stage for the time being trut tie shows no signs of fluffing his lines as be prepares for the latest role in his fledgling Scotland career tomorrow. The Hawick-born youngster will start on the right wing against Spain at Murrayfield as Jim Telfer's side look to further bolster confidence ahead of the Five Nations' Championship after last week's demolition of Portugal.

Although caps have only been awarded for five of them, it will be Murray's eighth international for Scotland in his third different posiBY BRYN PALMER

tion after winning a Test centre berth on the summer tour of the southern tiemisphere. Since returning from Australia, however, intense midfield competition with the likes of Jamie Mayer and Alan Tait in the Edinburgh Reivers and Scotland squads have helped Murray

forge a new career on the wing. Shaun Longstaff looked to have installed himself on the left flank last season after an impressive debut against Wales, but Murray got the nod for the first three of this year's

autumn internationals. And as he great in giving me the winger's perswitches to the right to accommodate Kenny Logan's return to his favoured position against Spain, the 23-year-old paid tribute to the pair he has kept out of the side for their role in his own development. "I only changed to the wing with the Reivers at the start of this season and I am barely into double figures

in terms of games there," he said. "I am getting a lot of help from the guys in the squad who are used to playing there like Kenny and Shaun Longstaff. I am bringing a centre's Rutherford, believes an ability to eye to things but they have been adapt to the more expansive ap-

spective. It has helped my game enormously having them there to help me out on the defensive angles and coping with the different demands of the wing."

Murray admits he is happy to perform whatever role asked of him when it comes to pulling on the dark tilue jersey. "How many people get the opportunity to play for their country? I just count myself one of

the lucky ones," he added. The Scotland backs coach, John Rutherford, believes an ability to proach oow favoured by the national coaches is a valuable asset in his young protégé's locker. "Outside the half-backs and inside centre, match commissioner, Terry Vaux, there is so much movement with the game we are trying to play that you want all your players to be comfortable whichever position they oc-

cupy outside them," he said. 'It is very important we have got wingers that understand that and it was pleasing to see Kenny and Cammy linking up well for one of the tries against Portugal. They are not flying machines but they are both physical, penetrative kind of players."

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Italians put faith in home support

INACOUNTRY where one can he a crowd, it is hoped that a capacity of 12,400 at the Fila Forum will inspire a home triumph against Sweden over the next three days in the first Davis Cup final ever to be held in Italy.

Were the visitors anyone ther than Swedish, the notion f a victory for an intimidating owd would seem feasible. But, ; Jonas Bjorkman put it yesarday: "We have too much exerience to let that happen. We rehere to win. We are very posive about that."

Sweden, the holders, have von the Davis Cup six times and have been runners-up five times since 1975, when Bjorn Borg epitomised the unflappable Swedish

ER BILLS

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ile) Tomb

in Milan

tennis player. Once, while playing at the Italian Open in Rome, Borg had coins thrown at him by rowdy spectators at the Foro Italico. Borg calmly picked up the money and put it in his pocket.

Although Italy share with Sweden and the Czech Republic the distinction of being the only ever-presents in the 18 ears of the World Group, the idea that Italy's journeymen would play in the final this year would have been derided in Au-

Two things conspired in the

tantly, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi refused to play for the United States in the semi-final against Italy in Milwaukee. Then, having decided to stage the tie on an indoor carpet court to suit the pace of their game, the Americans laid one so slow that the Italians were able to trade groundstrokes as if they were at

Ironically, the Italians may have played into the Swedes' rackets in their choice of court surface for the final. Fearing the expertise of their opponents indoors, the Italians decided to put down clay. Two companies specialise in indoor clay courts, one Swedish, one French. Not wish-

Italians' favour. Most impor- ing to employ Swedes, the Italians seot for the French. The only problem is that the French court is much faster than the Swedish ooe, which rather defeats the object.

"I prefer to play indoors," Magnus Gustafsson, the Swedish No 1, said, "and when I got here I thought, this is my surface'. I will enjoy every second in there, I tell you."

The question of bonus paymeots surfaced as soon as the Italians qualified for the final, the dispute over lira between the players and the Italian Tennis Federation causing a lot of tuttutting in the media. Where would Italian players be but for the Davis Cup, it was asked.

the Italian game who bas lamented that he was born too early to share in the wealth of the professional era, was quoted as saying that the players "should give thanks to the Madonna for being in the final", adding that "they don't realise what an his-

The situation was defused when the players and the Federation agreed to play first and talk later.

torical moment it is".

Play starts this afternoon. with Andrea Gaudenzi, Italy's No 1, ranked No 44 in the world, who recently had a shoulder operation, facing Magnus Norman, Sweden's No 2, ranked No S2 in the world. Davide San-

Nicola Pietrangeli, an icon of guinetti, the Italian No 2, ranked No 47, plays Gustafsson, whose age, 31, is the same as his world ranking.

> "If we are one all after the first day. I think we will have a good chance," said Paolo Bertolucci, Italy's captain, who was a member of the team that won the trophy for the only time, in Chile in

Bertolucci, who played doubles in Santiago with Andriano Panatta, realises that a lot may hinge on tomorrow's rubber between Gaudenzi and Diego Nargiso and the well-grooved Swedisb pair, Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti.

Nargiso is one of the game's eccentrics. The junior Wimble-

don champion in 1987, he later became so concerned about playing in the main event that he changed his tennis shoes five times. He then sent his mother to look for a sixth pair telling ber oone of his shoes were good enough for the grass at Wim-

bledon Another time at Wimbledon, Nargiso became so frustrated that he aimed a serve at Mark Woodforde's head. The Australian was quick enough to dodge out of the way. During the French Open one year, Nargiso vented his anger on himself, repeatedly belting a leg with his racket. During the change-over, the wounded leg had to be ban-

A partisan crowd may steal the show here, but Italian teams have been embarrassed in the past. Watched by a handful of people while practising for their Inter-Zone final against the United States in Perth, Australia, in 1960 (Italy won 3-2), the Italian players were disturbed by hysterical laughter

At first, they chose to ignore the noise, but the laughter grew louder. Finally the Italians complained. A club official asked them to show him where the noise was coming from, at which point the knokaburra sounded off again.

DAVIS CUP FINAL (Milan): foday
11.30pm GMT, It names first) A Gaudenzi
V M Norman, D Sanguinetti v M Gustafson.

Tomorrow (2.30pm GMT): Gauden.

French flair, fun and all the old favourites

THERE WAS a 10-minute delay BY GREG WOOD before the start of the Hoods Challenge bere yesterday afternoon. The carpet court had developed an unsightly wrinkle along one of its service lines, and a man with an iron arrived to try to smooth it away. Since an assortment of veteran teonis stars were about to attempt the same trick, it seemed rather appropriate.

Like football and cricket, and no doubt tiddlywinks too, tennis has a permanent but rolling goldeo age which is always about 15 years ago. In 2013, the fans will be turning up at Olympia with their teary eyes and wistful smiles to watch Sampras and Rusedski trade rifle-shot serves. Their complaint, as always, will be that the new generation just cannot match the old-timers when it comes to putting on a

And if the trend toward robobe tennis continues, they will probably still be right. There was certainly no room for argument yesterday, as Yannick Noah and Guy Forget launched the tournament, which forms part of the ATP Senior Tour, with a match that was tennis, but not as we know it. It was fast, skilful and fiercely fought, but not to the point of ruthlessness. Aces were smacked,

at Olympia

lies whacked and walloped until both players were close to collapse. It was ... well, eotertaining, and when was the last time you could say that about a tennis match?

It was circus too at times, but as Noah said afterwards, "you need a little bit of everything", and the paying punters loved it. There was a high-five for a line judge after a 50-50 call that weot in his favour, a first serve into the upper tier and a knees-a-knocking attempt to return serve from within touching distance of the net. There was even an outing for exhibition-match favourites like the shot from a linesman's chair and a rally in which Noah hurdled the net to return his own

Forget was a willing straight man in the double act, but at neither end of the court were they playing just for laughs. There was not a single break point in the first 20 games, and Noah visited every corner of the court as he saved four match points in the super tie-break (first player to 10), a format devised to take the place of a deciding third set. As soon as he bad a match point of his own, meanwhile, It was time to shake

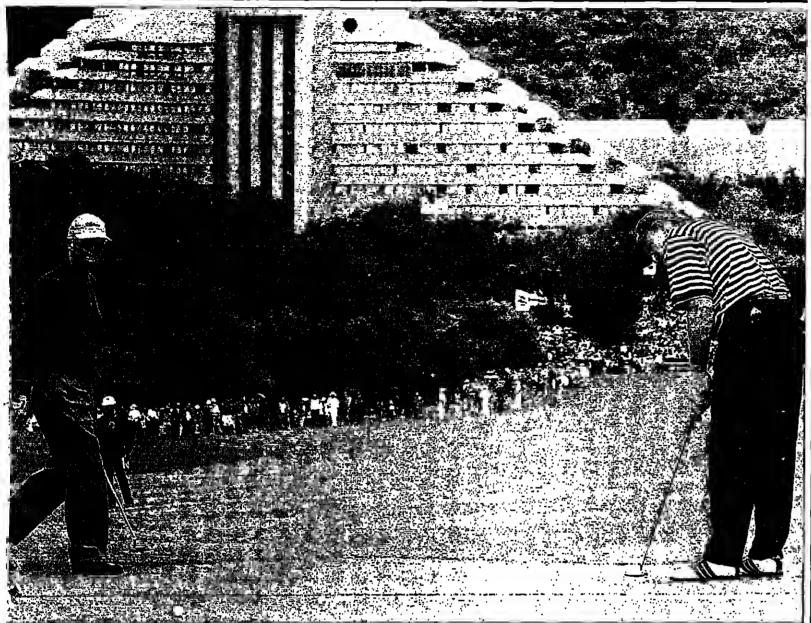
after sharing the first two sets

"I play the game the way I want it to be played," Noah, who has been a professional player for 20 of his 38 years, said afterwards. "When we were playing on the main tour, it was a firne when tennis was cool, hip and trendy, with players like Bjorn. John and Jimmy. Now it's just not the same, I don't watch much tennis these days. I like to see flair and emotion, and you

doo't see that too often." Forget, too, has his doubts about tennis in the modern age. "People want to eojoy the game and the atmosphere." be said. "but these days there's less time between points to fool around. There's the 25second rule, and sometimes they enforce it very strictly. It's just a game, not a war. but now guys play as if their lives are on the line."

The only shame about yesterday's match was that the Grand Hall was barely half full to see it. It was expected to be a different story for the evening session, though, when John McEnroe was the main attrac-

The debate about the merits of the tennis generations may go on forever, but no one can deny that players these days simply don't go nuts like they used to.



louth Africa's Ernie Els, watched by David Duval, makes a birdie putt on the opening hole in the first round at Sun City yesterday AFP | passes made and baseline ral- hands, taking the bebreak 13-11 Results, Digest, page 29

Price takes two-stroke lead in hunt for jackpot

VICK PRICE, seeking his third nillion dollar (£610,000) prize at Sun City, mastered the blustery BY MICHAEL VLISMAS conditions to lead the Million Dollar Challenge by two shots after the opening round yes-

Price's first-round 67 took three holes, but he then bohim clear of the chasing trio of Mark O'Meara, Justin Leonard, and Bernhard Langer – all on three under par.

birdies over the last nine to Parge up the leaderboard despite the windy conditions.

The South African Ernie Els Jim Furyk, finding the going made a fearsome start, racing tough in his first Millioo Dollar to four-under par after nine holes in front of an appreciative home crowd, but then let a two-shot lead slip with a mistake-riddled back nine.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie dropped a shot on the 18th amazing. I was telling Tom and ended at one under, ahead of the Americans David Duval and Tom Watson, England's Lee mally have a light breeze here." Westwood and the pre-tournament favourite Tiger Woods.

Westwood, making his first the par fives, because we bad way I'm striking the ball, I'm appearance at the Million Dol- two of them downwind. No 9 starting to roll the ball again and

at Sun City

lar, almost matched Eis' start, hitting two birdies in the first

geyed the fifth and sixth. Jesper Parnevik, three under after the first nine, had a disastrous run-in. He dropped Leonard picked up four a shot on the 15th and another oo the 17th, before a doublebogey oo the 18th saw him finish the day on two over.

> event, dropped two shots over the first six boles, and never really recovered, finishing on 75. Price, last year's winner,

> was delighted with his performance, despite the wind. "It's Watson today that this is a gale for us here, because we oursaid Price.

"But it certainly helped on

The Zimbabwean put his

quisitioo of a driver.

"It has increased my launch angle by about two or three degrees and it's carrying further. "At this altitude it hangs in the air longer. It really been an

success down to the recent ac-

asset to me in the last three weeks," said Price, oo a roll after winning the Zimbabwean Open in Harare last Sunday. Woods, the world No 1, had an indifferent start to his first Million Dollar event, and had to

settle for level par going into the clubhouse, having swung between two-over and two-under. "The wind was going back and forth all day and you just had to make sure you timed it

right and stayed committed to your shot," said Woods. But the 22-year-old is pleased with his form. "It's not too bad," be said. "Obviously it's a little better than it was two months ago. I'm very pleased with the

way I'm striking the ball, I'm

and No 15, so that evened it feels like I'm starting to make things up a little bit," he added. progress. It feels pretty good." On playing for a million dollar first prize, Woods said: "I oever really think about the money. I always try to get the

victory. Get enough victories

and the mooey will come." Afterwards, Woods praised Gary Player for his role in South Africa's transformation. "When Gary did all the things he did to fight for the end of apartheid, that was significant," said Woods, in the country for the first time.

"I know Gary went through a lot, and was heckled in tournaments be played in and had out against apartheid. Me coming here after it's all been resolved is not as significant.

"But I've always wanted to play golf in South Africa because of the racial difficulties the country has had.

"It's nice to be bere as a person of colour, and it's also nice to see the mixed race galleries as well," added the American.

WIN AN EVENING WITH SOME OF YOUR SPORTING HEROES AND A THE SELECTION OF THE STATE OF T THE TANKS.

The Independent and the Australian Tourist Commission have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a friend or partner the chance not only to dine with some of Britain's most famous sporting heroes at the Sports Writers Association Annual Dinner at the London Hilton on Monday 14th December, but also the opportunity to fly to Sydney and visit the

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are set to generate unprecedented levels of interest. More than anything, Australians are famous for their obsession with sport. The continent has established its reputation as a leading sporting nation and is host to some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. So there's never been a better time to head Down Under and discover what Australia has to offer. Sportsworld, the British Olympic Associations appointed tour operator, has provided the winner with six nights' accommodation in a twin room and two event tickets. Sportsworld has a comprehensive range of programmes from fully inclusive packages to flight and ticket options. Call Sportsworld for full

Qantas Airways is providing two return tickets to Sydney. Travelling with Qantas, Australia's international airline, has always been an enjoyable experience. Now there is a new Qantas which offers even higher standards of relaxed and enjoyable travel for every passenger. Quite simply they have redesigned the way you fly with new levels of service and comfort in all

The Independent have selected 6 sporting personalities from those previously honoured over the past 50 years - all you have to do is to vote for one of the athletes who in your opinion has contributed the most to their sport. Phone the number opposite the name listed below and tell us on the line the reason for your selection and leave your name, full address and a daytime relephone number. You could be the lucky winner who receives a pair of tickets to the Sports Writers Association Dinner and your trip to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

To cast your tope phone the number opposite The independent's selections below:

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IN SIR BOBBY CHARLETON.

2) ENPORO CHRISTIE

Positive step for Appleby

tralian golfer who is trying to come to terms with the tragic death of his wife, controlled his emotions to lead the field after the first round of the Australian Open in Adelaide yesterday. Appleby, playing at his first wife, Renay, earlier this year, fired a three-under 69 at the Royal Adelaide course.

The US-based Australian led players headed by Greg Norman as only 13 golfers broke the par of 72.

Appleby's world fell apart last July when his wife of 19 months was crushed to death it does not change the fact that between two cars outside Waterloo Station in London. The 27-year-old Victorian tried frantically to bring her back to life by the roadside.

STUART APPLEBY, the Aus- BY JULIAN LINDEN

In a round that would have been universally hailed by his sympathetic peers, Appleby had six birdies and three bogeys. Appleby has a different slant

home event since the loss of on life these days. He is still fragile emotionally and is taking things a step at a time as be rebuilds his life. "I bave lived this nightmare for four months by one shot from a group of five and it's not getting any easier," Appleby told a roomful of hushed reporters.

"Tm getting used to going to bed by myself, or waking up and not having her walk around, but I can't do without her"

Appleby realises nothing is constant, even down to his golf. which was on a rising plane after winning the Kemper

Tour win, just before Renay's petitive round since April," Nordeath. "I now find myself a bit man said. "I felt pretty much in more edgy, temperamental, one shape and hit a lot of good shots. minute I'm good, one minute I think it's going to be hard for I'm bad, very up and down," he said. "I feel I can concentrate well at times but I'm not far away from having trouble, it's very hard to keep playing constantly. That's what I'm trying to do this week, not trying to expect too much and beat myself

up and just be patient." Norman made a successful return to the office, casting aside the cobwebs of eight months away from golf to make a rousing start to his first 72hole tournament since shoulder surgery. He had six birdies, a double-bogey at the 544-yard

ninth hole and two bogeys in his round of 70. "I'm very happy with the day

without hitting two or three bogeys. I don't care how good you are hitting the ball. The course forces you to play defensively."

secutive bogeys to finish on 76.

It was a good day for Justin Rose, who has not made the cut in eight attempts since turning professional following his fourth in last summer's Open Championship. He was well set after an opening 72.

Scores, Digest, page 29

Open, his second career US considering it is my first comanyone to go around this course

> Nick Faldo and Fred Couples bad wretched first rounds. Faldo returned 77, including six bogeys, while Couples was one under par after seven holes before slumping with four con-

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Windsor takes leap out of jumping

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON at Windsor

NATIONAL HUNT racing fell off the perch here yesterday when Nordansk finished last in the seventh race, the Norwegian Blue Handicap Hurdle. After 130 years, jumping is now an ex-element of racing by the father Thames.

The skies, appropriately, numbers which filed through the turnstiles into the racecourse on Rays Meadow seemed barely greater than an East End funeral cortege. And that has been Windsor's problem during the colder months.

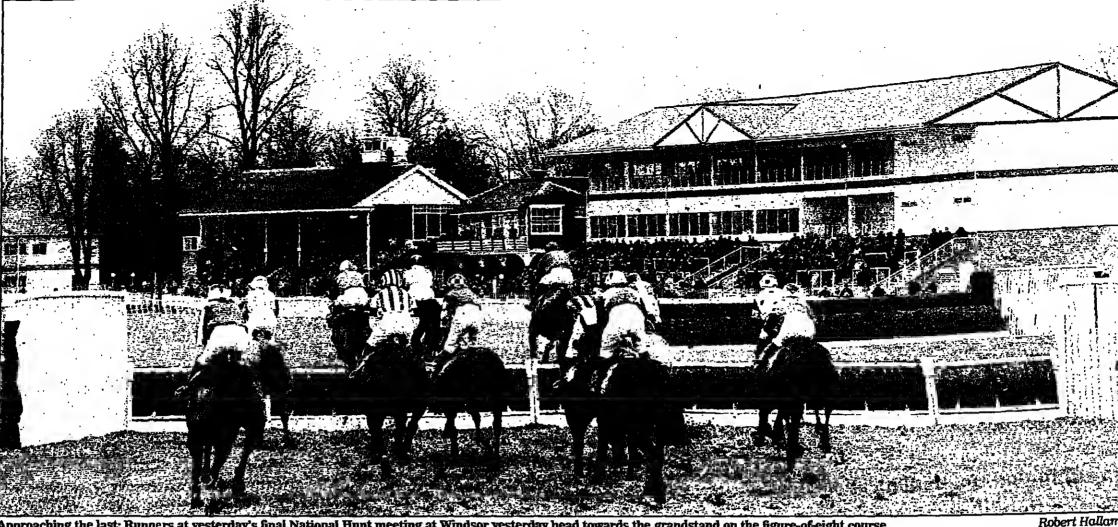
Over the winter, Windsor struggles to compile paying crowds of four figures. When the track's owners studied a further set of figures, at the bottom of a balance sheet, jumps racing was doomed. Over £100,000 was spent on track repovations earlier in the year and then the investment stopped.

To the diehards it is a decision difficult to accept. Trainers and jockeys admire Windsor's condition and configuration. Thorough enthusiasts enjoy watching the rawness of the sport at its basement and pure level; big fields of well-matched if mediocre animals.

It is difficult to imagine a mixed racecourse with a greater gulf between its winter and summer crowds. Windsor's Monday evening Flat meetings are Berkshire's versions of the Square Mile wine bar, a place where the blue shirts and braces come to wrestle with champagne after another hard day's making money. Sometimes they even watch the horses. There are, however, 6,000 of them each night,

Hugo Bevan retired with his track yesterday after 16 years as clerk of the course. He might a terrible shame because it's a consider himself lucky to be still around with his head joined to course," the Lambourn man the shoulders as he once spilled Dubonnet over the Queen London, it's good for owners Mother in these environs.

The closure will limit options for racing's so-called favourite to try [to keep jumping going].



Approaching the last: Runners at yesterday's final National Hunt meeting at Windsor yesterday head towards the grandstand on the figure-of-eight course

the hill there will be no more sneaking down to the royal

The Queen Mother's last victory here was with Easter Ross in a hurdle race just over Fontwell survive when this 12 months ago. That winner's trainer, Nicky Henderson, has been one of the critics of the Windsor jumping demise. "It's really nice National Hunt said yesterday. "It's good for and, sure, it's good for us. It's a matter of how hard they want

"On recent statistics it's the

country for the executive putting in prize-money. It's not their priority. They're just not National Hunt orientated. "How do Plumpton and

can't? The difference is that they want to make it happen. "It's all terrifying for the future. We want to hand this game over to the next generation in good condition.'

Terry Biddlecombe, who rode his 900th winner here, agreed. "It's a great shame," the husband and assistant trainer to Henrietta Knight said. "It's a very fair galloping track with great variety for everyone conher Liz's big, draughty place on second worst course in the cerned. The fences are always

good and the whole place is presented properly. To lose a course like this is a great loss for National Hunt racing. We need places like this. It's one of the saddest days."

Trainers will now lose a

swirling figure-of-eight course, which was rather bewildering for the spectating newcomer (we must now use the past tense). In common with the school over the bridge, promising, well-connected cadets were sent here, as the fences were considered beautiful education

for a young steeplechaser. There were the good horses, most notably winners of Windsor's premier event, the New

Year's Day Hurdle. Ruddy faced, and ruddy-nosed, racegoers were able to witness wins in that contest for Comedy Of Errors, Celtic Ryde and Celtic Shot. It was for great herds of lesser horses however that Windsor became notable. It attracted the second highest average number ton and Fontwell you'd field £9,000," Barry Dennis, the leadof horses per race. It is an irony of closure that ing bookmaker, said yesterday, There just aren't the people

it is executed under the stewardship of the Cheveley Park Stud's owners, David and Trish Thompson. Their interest in National Hunt racing has dwindled over the years, yet the victory of Party Politics in the 1992 Grand National remains as their greatest Turf moment.

Nottingham's jumping ceased two years ago and Lingfield will go the way of Windsor in the New Year. You might consider this a trend. "If I fielded £3,000 turnover for the day here it would be the norm and even on a poor day at Plump-

the people coming in. There's not much future for jumping at tracks like this. In racing, like any other sport, it's burns on seats that count. This isn't the last jumps course to go."

gambling because there aren't

Tote may break free

public ownership if successful in its attempt to secure Coral, it was confirmed yesterday. The Tote, gradually expanding its operation, now has the financial muscle to try to mount a credible hid for the Coral operation. The opportunity has come about after the Monopolies and Merger Commission hlocked Ladbrokes' attempt to acquire the Coral estate.

The Tote chairman, Peter Jones, said: "If the Tote were to huy Coral there is a general recognition that it would not be persuade us to overpay."

THE TOTE is to come out of appropriate for the Tote to maintain its status as a self-financing operation within the Home Office.

What exactly should happen to the Tote is the subject of a report I am preparing for ministers with the help of officials from the Treasury as well as the Home Office. We have strong financial support to mount a credible hid," he said. "But we are only interested in Coral to enhance the longer term return to racing. We must ensure that the thrill of the chase does not

Martha's Son forced to retire

MARTHA'S SON, one of the best and bravest two-mile chasers Michael Ward-Thomas and of recent years, has been owned by him in partnership He is going to Newmarket to be retired. Trained throughout his with the late Paddy Hartigan. Michael Bell's hack. It is most Martha's Son has not raced is such that it is not fair to the borses have something to do." since an injury in last year's horse to continue racing," Peterborough Chase forced him to pull up. Although severe muscle damage was diagnosed be back this season.

1.00 Native King

2.05 Artadoln Lad

1.30 Stormyfairweather

6-78 (205%), J Osborne 15-74 (20,3%). FAVOURITES: #11-323 (34.4%)

Ward-Thomas said yesterday.

Forster, who now trains under permit, said: "I would say

SANDOWN

GOING: Chase course - Good, Good to Firm in places; Hurdle course - Good. ■ Right-hand course; seven testing tences along back straight; run-in of 300yds.
■ Course is on A307, 4m S of Kingston. Either station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course ADMISSION: Club CR, Jumor Club (17 - 21 yrs) £12; Grandstand & Paddock, £10; Park enclosure £5. CAR PARK: Free.

ILEADING TRAINERS: 0 Nicholson 19-56 (22.1%), J Old 15-45 (33.3%), N Henderson 14-84 (16.7%), P Hobbs 11-45 (24.4%), ILEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 28-108 (25.5%), A P McCoy 17-86 (19.8%), A Maguire

1.00 BOVIS EUROPE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE

(CLASS D) £4,000 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,996

BMS (18) (W V M W & Mrs E 5 Robins) N Henderson 6 11 0 M A Fitzserak

BETTING: 15-8 Native King, 7-2 Artenia, 4-1 Sie Toby, 7-1 The Good Knight, 12-1 Chief Was-dance, 14-1 Martine Bay, My Tern, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Artemis: Has a tine jumping pedigree and is related to several winners, including Triple Witching. Ninth of 18 in a bumper at Chekenham lest month, but showed ptenty of promise Au Ster: Urraced Mon Tresor gelding cut of wriving chaier. Denoing Ballerha Chief Wardance: Won a bumper at Urbaneter (good to firm) lest season and finished 2nd to Mr Cool at Southwell in June. Has plenty to do on his hunding debut. Durmford Bay: Unplaced in 2 bumpers lest season and made no show on his first appearance over fundes at Wincamon last month. Half-brother to 3m chaser Kissane, so will need farther.

need rarmer I Do The Jokas: First run for new yard and returns after an 11-month kay-off. Ran promi-nently until 3 cut on his first cuting last season when trained by Terry Casey, but pulled up

next time Martins Bay: Chasing type, who has had an unfortunate start to his hurding career as he was pulled up on his debut in October and then made mistakes before failing at the Sin at

Native King: Started 3-1 taxounts on his debut here last month when 3rd in a bumper Finalised strongly after being given a fair bit to do and should have benefited from the ex-

Sir Toby: Made a promising first appearance over hundles when 4th a) Wincanton lest month and the numer-up won next time. Encouraging jockey booking, but stable have not hit form

The Good Knight: Has shaped well in both outings in bumpers and had Artemis in 9th

hen 48 to Scarlet Emperor at Chefenham last month, May need farther than 2m on Pincht: Missed last season and had stift tasks in both outlings in 1966-7, Irsh point-point witner, but lightly reced for a 8yo and has a long absence to overcome y Tam: Showed promise in 2 bumpers last season, but soon behind and talled off when is fall 2 out on her first run over hurdles at Chettenham in October

VERDICT: Sir Toby was given a quiet introduction to jumping at Wincardon less month and will have benefited from the experience. However, Richard Flowe has still to get off the mark this season and MATIVE KING comes from a stable that has already sent out 10 winners with a strike rate of around 33 per cent. He looked in need of the experience when (avourite and third in a bumper on his debut at Sendown last month.

1.30 P & O DEVELOPMENTS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,143

8Rowling Rock 1997: Wise King 7 11 O.C. Llewellyn 3-1 (J. Old) 5 nan

997 Country Beau 5 ti 0 R Dunwoody 3-1 tay (J King) 21 ran

2.35 Baronet

3.10 HEADWIND (nap)

3.40 Navarre Samson

Martha's Son was bred by and a tiger on the racecourse all he wanted to do was please.

Martha's Son won the 1997 Champion Chase after having jumped just one fence that campaign. He had been off with it had been hoped that he would he was the best I've ever had. a leg problem, but fell at the He was a child's pony at home second on his reappearance.

FORM GUIDE

bowing Rock: Led to the 7th and then weekened 4 out when 4th to Stormyfarmeather.

stantiquaters.

Silient Crackers: Found an easy race when winning at Plumpton (2m 5i) in October and did not have the pace to cope with the drop back in trip when 3rd over 2m at Chel-

and do not have the pack out of his depth berhain next time. Looks out of his depth Aridey Royal: Took well to hurding last season and wound up with an impressive 9 lengths success at Warrick (2" lam). Looks just the type for fences Strong Patadin: Placed 4 times in novice chases for Josh Gifford last season, he did not appear to stay 3m when 3rd on his first run for ferry Casey at Kempton last month. Drop back in trip will help, but this looks a lough race

VERDICT: Stormyfairweather appeared to be an above average novice when making a successful reappearance over this distance at Chellenham and Zaggy Lane (3rd) won on Tuesday. Although he has the advantage in experience he is up against a emert prospect in ARIQLEY ROYAL, who receives 7th Jim Old won this last year and Aritey Royal has always looked the type to make a chaser.

2.05 BOVIS EUROPE WINTER NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £9,690

(CLASS A) ETS_LOU SOCIED 2111 OF PERIODY VALUE 2011 OF PERIODY OF

BETTING: 5-4 Barton, 5-2 King's Road, 5-1 Native Recruit, 16-1 Artadokn Lad, Lord Noelle, 12-1 Do Ye Know Wha, 14-1 Coh Sho No

FORM GUIDE

Barton: Has not been troubled to whi all three races over hurdes, last time from Do Ye Know Wha (received 7th, pair 29 lengths clear) at Uttorater, Stays this trip too King's Road: Useful honse in bumpers and much respected on evidence of clear-cut win from subsequent winner Buck's Palace on hurdes debut at Chepstow recently Lord Noelle: Improved torm to readily best previous winner Road Cusy at Stratford in October. More to do now but unexposed so should be respected Artadolin Lade Bumper werser who won Warwick, novices hurde last time (2m, form ordinary). Stable's runners often improve when upped in distance, but needs to Do We Know Witze Wild propriet find in march burde has no house in process.

Do Ye Know Wha: Well-regarded dual novices' hurdle winner but no obvious reason why he should reverse last-time-out so-length defeat at Uttoseter by Barton. Meets that

with the singuit reverse less-time-dux societing in detect at Unboster by Barton. Meets that inval on the same weight terms today. Native Recruit: Fulfilled promise of Stratford third to Lord Noelle with two smooth wins since, last time from Davenport Banquet at Luction. This is much hander Coh Sho Mo: Has taken well to hundles, with two wins and two seconds, tast time behind Sulawesi at Kempton off 102 in handicap. Doesn't look quite good enough

VERDICT: BARTON has a stiffer task than when wiming impressively at Uncontentual till looks the Beliest winner, shead of the similarly unexposed King's Road and

2.35 BOVIS LELLIOTT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £7,099

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Bando: Won first time cut last season and has been dropped 7th after some lackustre efforts. Made metalets when 4th to Termessee Twist on his reappearance last month and these ferces take some jumping.

Barginet: Stays well and ended last season by landing the Scottish National (Samilee Sith), is 8th higher, but does not look harshly treated and won first time out in 1996 Superior Pinish: Usually nurs well here (won the 1996 Anthony Mildmay), but lightly raced since and probability best when hissh nowadays. Refused in the Pardubice last time, but that can't be held against him!

Samilee: Stays well and though he often makes mistakes has a consistent completion record. Always numerable to anything with 6 turn of bod at the finish. South to Baronet in the Scottish National and has a 12th pull for 29 lengths

1997. Song Ot The Sward 4 11 0 G Bradley 11-4 (J Old) 9 ran

1997: Samlee & 10 3 D Bridgwater 2-1 (P Hobbs) 4 ran

last time. Unlucky not to win at Hereford in October, but is only 8lb benter off with Stor

tion: Impressed on his reappearance at Cheltenham last month when

HISTORY OF MARTHA'S SON

Breeding: By kilot's Delight out of Lady Martha. Breeder: Michael Ward-Thomas.

Owners: Michael Ward-Thomas and Paddy Hartigan.

First win: Stratford novice hurdle at odds of 25-1 on racecourse debut, 28 December 1991.

Career record: 26 runs - 15 wins, five places for £257,802 in prize money. Big races won: Peterborough Chase, Huntingdon (1994), Victor Chandler Handicap Chase, Ascot (1995), Corner Chase, Ascot (1995), Queen Mother Champion Chase, Cheltenham (1997), Mumm Melling Chase, Aintree (1997)

FIRST SHOW

Exeter 2.25

Juliara	94	94	94	94	94
Clever Remark	94	84	94	94	5-2
Pennymoor P			_	_	_
Royal Barge					
Secret Elid	8-1	81	9-1	B-1	<u>5-1</u>
Steel Moss	91	11-1	10-1	134	91
Robsand	14.1	16-1	20-1	16-1	264

C Coral, H Wim Hill, L. Lactorckes, S Stanley, T Total Memerchic: Won first time out at Wincanton in October and not surprisingly could make no impression on subsequent Hennessy winner Teeton Mill when 2nd there next time off a 10th higher mark. Has been dropped 3fb in the handicap ratings and should not

VERDICT: Menesonic may well trank the form of Teeton Mil's easy success at Wincanton, but though he kept on well from two out that day his starring has to be taken on trust. However, there are no doubts about BARONET in that department after the hard fought win in last season's Seattish National (4m 1f) on fast ground at Ayr from

3.10 BOVIS CROWNGAP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B)

all Warrior: Seems to need some cut in the ground and won twice last season

- here (3m, good) and Taunton (4m 1f, soft). Going will be too fively and hard fask from

	210,000 added 211 41 110yds relially value 27,170
46P406	STATELY HOME (7) (CD) (P Bowen) P Bowen 7 tt 12
PSOP-	GOLDEN SPINNER (248) (CD) (Mrs H Mailand-Jores) N Henderson 11 R 6. M A Flagerald
2034-1	MOON DEVIL (24) (D) (Sir Colin Southgate) M Campion 8 11 4
	SHIMING LIGHT (18) (D) (Dedey Partnersho) D Nicholson 9 to 13 A Maguire
221-23	SOUNDS LIKE PUN (14) (C) (D) (BF) (Mrs H Brown) Miss H knight 7 to 12 . J Culloty
	HEADWIND (24) (CD) (BF) (Pel Mel Partners) J Gifford T 10 5 P Hide
	PLUNDER BAY (576) (D) (W & Mrs E S Robins) N Henderson 7 to 0 R Thornton

BETTING: 9-4 Moon Devil, 3-1 Sounds Little Fun, 5-1 Shining Light, 6-1 Headwind, 13-2 Golden runer. 7-1 Stately Home, 6-1 Plunder Bey 1997 · Catis Regrets 9 11 10 A Maguire 12-1 (Miss H Knight) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

Stately Home: Formerly prolific winner but has lost his way Jumped soundly but last time out 33-length sixth to Stormy Passage at Newbury Isn't good enough Golden Spinner: Capable performer with good chance here on form of Newbury win in February (now 1to lower). Had excuses for two subsequent deleats. Moon Davil: Lightly-raced and progressive front-numer. Very much the one to best on form of nine-length Newbury defeat of Sounds Fyrie, even though 7th higher Shinting Light: Has dropped back down to weight he can win off but strugging to recapture bast, last time a below-par 32-length third to Mr Stong Gale at Kempton Sounds Like Fun: Generally consistent chaser, though below par third of lour at Ex-eter last time. Claims on previous second to Mr Strong Gale over course and trip adwind: Lightly reced and reasonably treated course and distance winner Disagpointing near 30-length fifth on seasonal bow at Hurtingson but still respe Plunder Bay: Winning chaser who resumes on good mark. 7to lower than I Yard In-form so not one to totally dismes despite absence since May 1997 VERDICT: MOON DEVIL, the one runner at the top of his form last time, is the one

to beat in an ordinary race by Sandown standards. A 7th rise for this front-runner's clear-cut Newbury win is not harsh and a reproduction will make him difficult to repel. Head-

3.40 BOVIS EUROPE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,775

1997 Tough Act 11 3 M A Fitzgerald 8-1 (Mrs A Penetl) 12 ran

Run, who has a bit more to do this time

FORM GUIDE Chartie's Gold: Progressive and bettered Haydock defeat of a subsequent winner with good 25-length third to smarn-booking Restainting at Cheltenham last time. Hit And Run: Lightly raised Flat-racer and inheaten hurdler, best run last time out Cheltenham defeat of the unbucky Doctor Goddard. Should go well again. techain deleted in the unfucky Occlor Goddard, Should go well again. Newton's Sammours Win first five (inculsing beating Charités Gold at Wincrester), including decent wins at Wietherby and Sandown. Respectable second at Ascot lest time Augus D'Honoir. Good second in only fun on Flat but well beaten in only hurdlos out-ing, at hurstigdon recently. This is harder still Inner Light: Moderate maiden on Flat, last run yielding a 25-length defeat of Lingfield on the all-weather. Difficult to tancy at this level on hurdling defout Mighty Magdic. Measure of ability on Flat, last lime lingfining for lifth off mark of 55 in Foliopstone handicap (Im4f), improvement needed on this switch to hurdles.

VERDICT: NAVARRE SAMSON is the just about the pick on form and this affords a good opportunity to get back to winning ways after running into the progressive Mes Orphan at Ascot lest time. Charifle's Gold may be the main danger ahead of Hit And

WINCANTON

-1 Missed Call (4th), d up), 20-1 Clonshire Boy, 25-1 Brush Off. 100, 5260, 51840, DF:

1.20: (2m, novice hurdle, 3yc)
1. TOM PADDINGTON _____ Osborne 5-1
2. The Gene Genle _____ W Tomey 8-1
3. Master Caster _____ W Marstan 16-1
Also: 11-4 fav Tales of Bounty, 11-2 Noble
Demand (4th), 7-1 Fuero Real (pulled up),
10-1 Breteche, 10-1 Fields of Omagh, 12-1
Fatero Sate 32-1 Millian (milled up),
40-1

Facon Sale. 33.1 Milad (pulled up). 40-1 Hartestone Lanepulled up. 50-1 Inch Per-tect (pulled up). 50-1 Lawyer's Dream. 66-1 One To Go. 100-1 Rod Risk. 15 ran. 6, E. (Winter bay gelding by Rock Hopper out of Maylar Min., traned by H Morrison at East Isey, for M S Wilson & Mrs Wilson (Camp Farm Racing) Tote: £630; £210, £250, £230, DF: £3420, CSF: £4267.

2.20: (3m 1l m)yds. conditionals h'cap chase)

2510; £240, £420 DF: £2460.

3.20: (2m St. handcap)
1. KING OF SPARTA J A McCartiny 6-4 fav
2. Southempton ________ F Keniry 20-1
3. Full of Bounce _______ T Descorabe 6-1
Also: 9.2 Melstock Meggie (fell), 5-1 Quango (4th), 10-1 Hold Your Ranks (pulled up)
10-1 Oliver Duckeft (pulled up)
7 ram, det. 4, 31/. (Winner bay gelding by
Kehash out of Khatzaroan, trained by J Portman at Newbury, for Mrs Richard Tice). Tote:
C300, C180, C420, DF, S1720, CSF: C2345

3.50, (2m, handicap hurdie)
1. NEAT FEAT P Holloy 8-4 tav
2. Noole P Dummoody 7-1
3. Torn Silk Doborne 10-1
Aloc 4-1 Purkah, 7-1 Wab On By 10-1 Jure
(pulsed up), 14-1 Robert's Toy, 16-1 Shepherds Rest (4th), 33-1 Stonecutter
9 ran. 6. 6 (Wanner bay pelding by Rosing
out of Imperial Spur. Incined by D Eisworth
at Wintscombo. for Food Broford Lidf Tote;
12-27 Tricast: 173-99 Tniecta': 182-50
Placeport: 203-70 Quaddoot 12-8-40
Placeport: 203-70 Quaddoot 12-8-40 Placepot: £33470 Quadpot £2840 Place 6: £22354 Place 5: £6719

LEICESTER Going: Chase - Good, Hurdles - Good to Soft, Good in places 1.00: 1. COOL PERFORMANCE of Culto-ly) 90-1, 2. Sedier's Secret 5-1, 3. Stingray

1.30: 1. CARAS ROSE (8 Harding) 5-1; 2. £220 £3220 £170 DF: £33330 CSF:

- 5.7A

- · FERICH

4.00

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SCENT VERDICT

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77476

237.61 2.00: 1. APACHE PARK (T Bey) 12-1: 2. Be Brave 9-1: 3. Belmoral Princess 9-2: 4. Re-seveer 50-1, 20 ran. 4-1 tay South West Ex-press. nl. 21. (A Streeter, Utto-eter). Tote: £1350: £2.50. £3.30. £2.00. £16.0. DF £49.20

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Builder Boy (Hereford 1.10) **NB: Moon Devil** (Sandown 3.10)

CSF: £112.78. Tincast: £538.00.
2.30: 1. CAPENVIRAY (A Dobbri) 4-S fav;
2. Baltyline 7-1: 3. Cyborg De Beaufal 50-1.4 ran. 1.2.3. (J. king. Swindon). Tote: £160 DF: £450 CSF £523.
3.00: 1. BURUNDI (G. Bradley) 2-1: 2. Loveman 7-1: 3. Dacha 15-6 fav. 11 ran.,
37/i 16 (A Carrol, Worcester). Tote: £330: £140.£230.£140 Duel Forecast: £2750. CSF:

3.30: 1. BOWCLIFFE COURT (S Durack) 9-1 tax: 2. Nessun Doro 3-1; 3. Distant Storm 9-2 8 ran. 4 sh-hd |J Akehurst, Upper Lam-bourn; Fois: 52.70, £190, £230, DF: 5690 CSF £858

Jackpot: Nol won, pool of £12,30118 carned forward to Sandown foday Placepot £78,40 Quadpot £810 Place 6 £4607 Place 5. £2356.

WINDSOR Going. Good to Soft

12.40: 1. GRECIAN DART (M A Frizgerad) 4-7 favourie, 2. My Lisa Too 56-1: 3. Ne-misto 11-2. 14 ran. 9, 13 (N Henderson, Lambourn. Tote: \$150: \$130. \$1210. \$170. Dual Forecast: £7500, Computer Straight Dual Forecast: £7500. Computer Straight Forecast: £70.86 1.10: 1. PHILATELLC (Mr. J.D. Moore) 6-1: 2. River Bay 9-1. 3. Telfaportry 33-1.6 ren. 11-4 fay Scobe Girl nv. 14 [R Ahev. Band-lord Forumt Tote: £7.20: £2.00. £1.60. £6.10. Dual Forecast: £22.00 GSF: £52.23 Theast: £148175.

1.40: 1. COPPER COIN (M A Ficzgerald)
1.40: 1. COPPER COIN (M A Ficzgerald)
5-2; 2. Dragon Lord 8-1: 3. Bronhaldweg
1. 14 ren. 6-5 tav Flonstan, Ind. 18, (N Henderson, Lambourn) Tote: (2.20); (2.10, E.20);
2.10: 1. BUCKLANO LAD (B Fernon) 13-8
1av: 2. Machalini 11-1: 3. River Leven 7-1
5 ran, Ind. 1/h. (O Gressel, Robertsbridge)
Tote: (2.20); (1.50, C.280, DF; (1.280, CSF);
(2.50);
2.40: 1. HEART II. C.

2:509
2:40: 1. HEART IL Cummrs) 8-13 fav: 2.
Rosein3:33-1: 3. Miles Permyhill 15-2:4 fan.
8:3 | Miles H Knight, Wantagel, Total £140.
DF. £9:40 GSF £1047.
3:10: 1. STEPASIDEBOY (J Leech) 14-1: 2.

3.10; 1. 31EHABILIEBUY (J.LESCH) 14-1; 2. Tomparion 11-8 fav. 3. Jazzman 3-1; 8 fam. 5-3 (R.Curts, Lamboum), Rois; 57000; 5200, £120 £140 DF. £1290 CSF; £3145 NF; Wory 3-40: 1. CHARLIE BANKER (N Williamson) 8-1, 2. Pratrie Mirsstrel 5-1: 3. Mile A Minute 33-1: 13 ran., 100-30 tay Another Night (4th), 12 nt. (K Burte, Wantage) Total (2400; 5370, 5180 5620 DF: £5410 CSF: £4675, Theast: 5184 38

Placepot £2390 Quadpot £520 Place 6: £9086 Place 5: £7089

THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS SANDOWN 971 EXETER 972 982 HEREFORD 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Friday 4 December 1998

Blaisdell puts the bite into **Panthers**

Nottingham's Canadian coach has managed to put their city on the ice hockey map. By Adam Szreter

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, who have made a mark on Nottingham's cultural heritage over the years is hard to quantify precisely, but in Mike Blaisdell, the 38-year-old coach of the Not Jigham Panthers, the city knows it has at least one who is determined to blaze a trail.

Blaisdell, a veteran of nine seasons in the National Hockey League with Detroit, Pittshurgh, the Toronto Maple Leafs and the New York Rangers, is acknowledged as one of the most astute and inspirational coaches operating in the British Super League and tomorrow night at the Sheffield Arena he will be attempting, against the odds, to lead the Panthers to their third Benson and Hedges Cup triumph in five

Blaisdell took over as player-comh at Nottingham in 1992, after Aming the championship as a player with Durham. After so much success, especially in this competition, be might be of the corner of his eye, spots forgiven for taking it lightly a man open and puts it right on this time around, but at last his stick. Then there are the big week's pre-final dinner in London. Blaisdell was having none aren't bad for bockey because of that "It's important for any no one ever really gets hurt. If sporting club to have real suc- you're at a bockey game you cess," be said. "Last year was can see why it gets to boiling devastating for us because we finished fourth in the league some steam - there's an in- seems no clearer about its di- British players but I don't see and didn't win a trophy. I'm ner-tensity that's hard to duplivousthinking about the final cate.

THE NUMBER of men from coming in droves, the tickets just went and that's all people have been talking about. We've got two games in the Super League this weekeod [they beat Newcastle and lost to Cardiff hut no one even mentions them. I don't even think most of our fans know where we're playing in the League they're just thinking, "Ayr, the Cup. December 5th.

Blaisdell's own passion for ice hockey is as difficult to convey in printed words as the speed and excitement of the game itself. "There's so much to ice hockey," he said, "but you've got to go to a game to ap-preciate it. Get as close to the ice surface as possible and you'll get a new respect for it. You've got hig, strong guys, turning on a dime, skating like figure-skaters and playing a very physical sport.

"There's skill involved, grace and there's vision - that's the thing. Everything happens so fast but it's that player who, out of the corner of his eye, spots hits and the fights. The fights point and they have to let off

-- Although the game in this tingham should, injury permit- what they can do. There's a just going to score a goal'. That "Sheffield is only 45 min- country is still struggling to se- ting, have one beme-grown thought process that says these tes away so our fans will be cure a place in the conscious-



Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham Panthers coach, plans the strategy which he hopes will give his team their third Benson and Hedges Cup success in five seasons, when they play in tomorrow night's final against the Ayr Scottish Eagles in Sheffield

ness of the average sports fan, Simon Hunt, Ayr will have oone. with the advent of the Super League, increased television coverage and sponsorship, Blaisdell believes it is oo the right track. However, when it comes to the thorny issue of imported players ice hockey There are some very good ing to a better standard.

union or cricket. While Not-

"The sport has progressed since I've been here in that there's a higher level of talent on the ice," Blaisdell said, "but

'The fights aren't bad because no one gets hurt. If you're at a

ting the opportunity to show

player in tomorrow's line-up in guys have to be exceptional to Super League has isolated a se-

imports that I don't feel do a better job than the British kids." The other side of the coin is I feel it's bard for the Britisb kids to get their foot in the door.

that British players like Hunt and Jonathan Weaver who have been given a chance are play-

game you can see why it gets to boiling point' Manchester. With only 13 fit layers out of 20, and having "It used to be that you'd get the puck and think 'OK, there's five British guys on the ice, I'm

lost the away leg 3-2, they went a further goal behind during the first period before winning 3-1. would never happeo now. The

eveo harder one. The Ayr Scot-

and they're forcing them to play

at a higher level than they ever

great benefits to our national

team and it's really showing."

Blaisdell's own playing days

are numbered now, despite re-

turning to the ice to belp with

epic semi-final victory over

get a chance, whereas there are lect oumber of British players the first side to retain the Benson and Hedges Cup, won all four domestic trophies last seathought possible, which brings son and on Tuesday in Mannbeim came within a minute of becoming the first British side to qualify for the second round of the European Cup.

Blaisdell and his players, the injury crisis that Nottingthough, have their sights set: "They hand out these really stuham have endured since their pid looking baseball caps to the winning team and I was talking to some of the guys and one of them said: 'I just want to wear that vellow, felt hat again. It's something that you'd never, The task tomorrow is an ever wear again but you put It on, look stupid in froot of 7,000 people, and it's great."

Wigan call off world party

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

WIGAN HAVE declared the money-spinning prospect of a World Club Championship showdown with the Brishane Broncos a non-starter.

The two clubs had agreed in principle to play in Fehruary at Bolton, but could oot agree on a date. Wigan wanted to play on the first weekeno of the month. but Brisbane proposed 20 February, which the Eoglish champions rejected hecause it falls between two rounds of the Challenge Cup.
Now the international fed-

eration, meeting in Sydney; has earmarked the first weekeod of February for the World Nines in Johannesburg, prompting Wigan to scrap any hope of the high-profile match at Bolton taking place.

"As far as Wigan are concerned, it is a dead duck," said the club's chairman, Peter Norbury, who also expressed disappointment at the federation organising the Nines, which will inevitably involve several of their players, without consulting Wigan.

Sceptics will suspect that the fear of losing to Brisbane and starting their season on a downbeat note has played a part in the club's uncharacteristic lack of eoterprise. It is only four years since Wigan, without a coach and after an exhausting 45-game domestic season. went to Brisbane and won the world title.

One of Wigan's first-team players could soon be on the move, but Stephen Holgate will only be allowed to go to Hull if they pay the money Wigan claim they are still owed for the transfer of Craig Murdock.

Holgate was a first-choice prop in the team that lost the Challenge Cup final to Sheffield last May, but the form of Neil Cowie and Terry O'Connor, the signing of Brett Goldspink, and the development of Neil Baynes gives Wigan an abundance of talent in that position. The club have denied rumours that they now plan to bring Robble Mc-Cormack back from Australia.

EXETER

12.50 Wixoe Wonder 1.20 Walter's Destiny 1.50 Sad Mad Bad 2.25 Secret Bid 2.55 Musical Sling (nb) 3.30 Harik

GOING: Good, Good to Soft in a tew places ■ Pitch-hand, undulating course. Stiff test of stamina.
■ CC_De is 5m SW of Exaler on A36, ADMISSION: Grandstan & Pasibok 211: Silver Ring 25. Accompanied under 56 free CAR PARK: C2 on rails: C2 members; remainder free. LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 63-255 (2076), Miles H Knight

32-26 (53%), P Hobbs 27-132 (205%), R Frost 20-168 (227%), ELEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 35-110 (318%), A P McCoy 25-17 (19%), J Osborne 18-57 (25%), J Frost 17-130 (131%) ELINKERED FIRST TIME: May Sunset (visored, 3.30), LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Sad Med Bad (150) & Straffing Gold (3.30) sent 348 miles.

12.50 HALDON SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 1f 110yds

—7 declared —
Minmum weight: 10st. The handcop weight: Divine Chance 8st 10b.
BETTING: 5-2 Chan The Man, 7-2 North Barnister, 9-2 Divine Chance,
6-1 Churchtewn Chance, Whole Wonder, 8-1 Scarlet Rambler, 10-1 Indi-

FORM VERDICT Not a race to approach with any confidence whatsoever but CHAN THE MAN did show a bit more over fences lest time and may be able to win a weak heat. Indian Rum's hearn been repring confidence of leta, but he does have a solid chance on lest season's form.

1 0-1935 SPRING MARATHON (17) Mrs N Duriett 8 12 0 . Mr L Jefford 2225 ON MY TOES (28) (C) R Frost 7 10 0 Mark (C) Marts (7)

FORM VERDICT

WALTER'S DESTINY wouldn't look that well-treated, but has course form, shaped adequately on his reappearance and should stay. Stamma is the doubt about recent selling winner Arctic Chariter and Mingadown Trits whereas enthusiasm is the question mark over Royal Piper, though he could oblige

1.50 TARKA NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 1f 110yds

1.20 SEA CELLARS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 7f

- 5 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Flegehip Uberallee, 15-8 Sad Med Bad, 4-1 Sursum Cords, 8-1 Morth Killsbury, 14-1 Spring Saint

rection than football, rughy too many up-and-comers get-

FORM VERDICT

FLAGSHIP USERALLES is the obvious contender with his light weight and is very much the one to beat. 2.25 49'S CITY OF EXETER HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m 7f 110yds SP-430 ROBSAND (18) G Bailing 9 to 4 J Tizzerd V

- r contares -8ETTING: 9-4 Juliare, 5-2 Clever Remerk, 9-2 Pennyrosor Prince, 8-1 Royal Barge, 8-1 Secret Sid, 10-1 Steel Moss, 14-1 Robsand

FORM GUIDE Juliana: Well weighted on old form and did better last time when Junaire: West weap need on our John and did better less time when Helength that to easy winner (and subsequent Hermessy win-ner) Teston Mill at Wincanton. Now 9to lower Claver Remark: Lightly-raced chasse, still improving desprise ne-ing 10to to judge from Towcester defeet of Young Kermy (beat-ert since) last time. Pase of 8to for this 6 late.

eri smoet last timis. Rose of 6th for this is left. Permymoor Primes: Weighted up to best (2.b higher than for last all-out win) but good corneback third to Nearly An Eye over are inscloquate trip last week. Royell Barges in good form in summer but this softer ground is a worry and recent 28-length third to Calling Wild at Wincanton (first run stook August), Not good enough. Steel Massic Overcame two season absence to win at Wincanton in February and tale fourth to Precide Muck in only subsequent out at Utterstee. New test insorthers.

in Fabruary and tair fourth to Fracide Muck in only subsequent run, at Uttoweter. Not well weighted. Secret Slid: Only 2th higher than for last win and fair run less time when fourth to Wishing William at Huntingdon (second win-ner since). Et more required now Robsand: Still a maiden and though well weighted on some form and yard is in better form, less time out 45-length seventh at Lenesser doesn't look good enough.

VERIBLET: CLEVER REMARK, still improving to judge from his Towcester wirt, is not herstilly weighted off a 5to higher mark and looks the one to best in a race which land particularly weighted to the money on offst, Pentrymoor Prince may provide the main threat.

2.55 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFI-ER) (CLASS D) £4,600 2m 11 110yds 721-31 MUSICAL SLING (4) P Hoods 5 11 5 R Widger (7) 6 LADANTE (16) J Mulit 4 10 9 W Morston

FORM VERDICT

Despite admiration for Musical Sting, there is a fear this race might come a bit quick and FRANK BYRNE is a token sug-

3.30 MERLIN CONDITIONALS NOVICE HCAP HURDLE (F) £2,400 2m 1f 110yds

2P1345 WATER FLOWER (14) (CD) M Pipe 4 TI 9_ ... G Supple (3) V - 10 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Stretten Gold 9st 8tb, Lazys BSTING: 3-1 Native Fing. 4-1 Straffen Gold, 11-2 Harfs, 8-1 Water Flower 7-1 Pride Of Pennitar, 8-1 Oriental Style, 10-1 Selbarry, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

NATIVE FLING hasm achieved a lot either hera or in Ireland but he is at least a definite improver in an ordinary handicap.

last August. 3.20 HOW CAPLE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 3f

-7 declared -BETTING: 64 Calon Lan, 94 Hot Express, 5-1 High in The Clouds, Man-esis, 15-1 Check The Deck, 25-1 Weish Harvest, 33-1 Royal Rapport

FORM VERDICT

Calon Lan is districtly opposable following his tame short at Ascot but, with his appearent main rivals unproven much be-yond 2m, does have the distance on his side. First-time blink-ers could also stiffen his resolve, but preference is for HIGH. IN THE CLOUDS. Most of Henry Daly's horses have been needing their first outing, but he sent out a good chasing prospect in Edmond to score at the first time of asking, and High in The

Lan on hurdles ratings, could be another 3.50 DONCASTER SALES/EBF MARES NH

Circuits who has 12th-olus in hand of Moh Express and Calor

OI- DORANS GROVE (272) J King 4 Tl 7._____ L Cummitte (3) DOCTOR ROSE R Bucker 4 71 0 O O'Sulfinan (7)
6- GAELIC (272) N Twiston-Dowes 6 11 0 Log Labrem (7)
0-0 LADY (ASH (14) D Gendorfo 5 71 0 S Wynne
D MADAM ROSS (18) D Nicholson 5 71 0 R Messay

FORM VERDICT Too Dresser is an interesting visitor from the Micky Hammond highly-speculative vote goes to Strong Gale mare GAELIC in

THE GERMAN Athletics Federation (DLV) said yesterday it had banned plasma substitutes after it appeared that at least mooth he bad received a retwo prominent German athletes had used one called HES. "To protect athletes from unautborised manipulations, we have decided together with the used to combat the blood thick-DLV doctors that the use of ening which might result from plasma substitutes such as HES should oot be allowed any more," the federation said in a statement

Germans put ban on

plasma substitutes

The DLV said it would also ask the International Amateur Athletic Federation to put HES on its list of banned substances. The federation statement came after the European 10,000 metres bronze medallist. Stephane Franke, was quoted as saying that both he and the European 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, Damian Kallabis, had taken HES during the European Championships in Budapest

A German federation doctor, France.

Karlheinz Graff, said last quest from two German athletes for HES, which expands the volume of blood plasma. Graff said HES could be ening which might result from the intake of erythropoietin (EPO) or other forms of blood doping.
We are making this public

because we believe we are inoocent and have oothing to hide," said Franke, who trains with Kallabis. "We have oever taken erythropoietin and we are ready to auhmit ourselves to blood controls at any time." EPO, which stimulates the

production of red blood cells. cannot be detected through existing testiog. It has been linked to several sports, most ootably cycling during the major doping scandal which marred this year's Tour de

Robinson will give Blackburn a boost

BLACKBURN NORTHERN may have changed their name a few times on the way from By BILL COLWILL Great Harwood hut one player remains - Val Robinson, who won the first of ber 149 Englisb caps in 1963 and ended her in- Louise Clement." ternational career in 1984, the year Karen Brown began hers.

Robinson will fill the right of midfield as Blackburn take on all-conquering Slough in Sunday's EHA Cup fourth-round tie. Unfortunately for Brown who made her international debut in the same side as Robinsoo - she suffered concussion against Ipswich two weeks ago and will be missing

The Blackburn centreplay against internationals. It difficult afternoon.

from the Slough line-up.

HOCKEY

will be a great experience for teenagers like Jill Perks and

Jackson added a word of caution however: "Oh, by the way, our goalkeeper Chris Lyson has bought a new chest protector." She may need it.

In a draw in which all the Premier sides avoid each other, the tie of the round is the visit of Jane Sixsmith's Sutton Coldfield to Woking, the high-flying Surrey side on full points at the top of the Second Division.

Woking, who disappointed last season, have flourished forward Karen Jackson, who is since Ian Jennings took over likely to benefit from Robinson's last June. Kate White and Kath precisioo passing, spoke of the James joined them from Troexcitement at the club. "We are jans and Sutton, resting at the going to eojoy the occasion. It's bottom of the Premier log find not often you get the chance to themselves in for a potentially

12.40 Mud in Your Ear 1.10 Builder Boy 1.40 Prussia 2.15 Party Animai 2.45 Dancing Laird 3.20 Manasis 3.50 Dorans Grove GOING: Good.

HEREFORD

Supplication of the second sec Cub FTS: Ismersels FTC; Course Encourse Ed. Accompanies Unicerties free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free.

BLEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 37-101 (365%), M Twiston-Device 22-99 (22.2%), P Hobbs 12-64 (18.8%), K Belley 12-64 (18.8%), ELEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 30-100 (30%), C Llewellyn

23-97 (23.7%), C Maude 11-43 (25.6%), R Durwoody 11-44 (25%). ■ FAVOURITES: 202-508 (38.8%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kaimoojid (140), Calon Lan (3.20).

12.40 WIDEMARSH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 53,000 2m 3f 110yds

- 18 deciared -GETTING: 7-2 Merchiginer, 4-1 Laurel Seeker, 11-2 Arctic Resilier, Bru-lies, 7-1 Mad in Your Ear, 8-1 Plarmengo, 12-1 Borme Ville, 18-1 others

FORM VERDICT A wide-open novice event, with market reference essential for A wide-open novice event, with marks rescence osserial for those who must bet, given the presence of potentially dan-grous hurding newcomers Flamengo and Must in Your Ear. Preference is for lightly-raced MERSHIGINER, open to im-provement after a lair effort lest time.

1.10 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS HANDI-CAP CHASE (E) £4,500 added 2m 3f 1 105-0 PERSIAN TACTICS (11) T Needigm 9 it 10
2 SPM4 INFLUENCE PEDLER (22) Mas k George 5 it 5 ... A Manage
3 306361 MR BEAN (44) (C) (D) B Llevelyn 6 to 12 ... N Williamon
4 Fit-8t JEMARO (6) W Jinks 7 to 7 (7ex) ... Gary Lyone
5 053391 BJRLDER BOY (16) (CD) 8 Broderian 8 to 0 ... S Wyrms
— 5 declared Minimum weight: 10st. Two handleps weight: Builder Boy 9st 13th.
BETTING: 7-4 Jemaro, 11-4 Spillder Boy, 3-1 Influence Pedlin, 4-1 Mr

FORM VERDICT Although again stepping back in distance, JEMARO is clearly not short of pace and he should make it four wins from his lest five starts provided he has fully recovered from his Hey-dock exercions. Builder Boy appeals for the forecast.

1.40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 added 2m 1f

021-01 CADBURY CASTLE (16) (CD) G Charles-Jones 4 11 7

FORM VERDICT Current handicap ratings give Classic Defence an outstanding chance, but there is a major doubt whether he is able to live up to them now. The fact that he, Cadbury Castle, Prussix and Dutch are all suited by forcing tactics could set up the race for something to come from behind. Perhaps the best prospect is cross-useful DUBLIN RIVER, who may have need-back his secont or three.

2.15 KINGS CAPLE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (F) 23,800 3m 1f 110yds ORGEP TRITY (USA) (200) (D) A Streeter 8 T2 0 ______ A S Smith V 453-2 PARTY ANNIAL (22) K Belley 8 11 8 W Williamston

3 163/0 ST MELLION DRIVE (295) M Pipe 8 TI 5 _______ R Greene
5 40-45 RACHE (18) P Richard 7 TI 1 _______ S Fox
6 5503/1 THE BARGEMAN (K2) (58) D Gendob 10 TO 3 ___ S Wymne
7 93-PIG ROLLE (N2) (TI) S Grootshaw 8 TO 10 TO 3 ___ S Wymne
8 06FP-5 CHARLIE HAWES (19) S Metor 9 TO 8 _______ C Webb
9 07-655 BTLIES MATE (11) J Portman 7 TO 3 _____ O McPriet (5) 8
0 APPG-P PERSIAN BOY (195) O Servenced 8 TO 3 ______ J O Shorme
17 ROSPU- OTTER RIVER (186) O Carter 6 TO 3 ______ S Burrough
12 53-0-05 CUETT MOMENTS (19) (CC) P Murphy 5 TO 0 ______ D Byrné V
15 PPP-5 DURSMOS COUNTRY (9) C Tizzard 8 TO 0 ______ S Brorge (7)
14 PUG-35 ORPHAN SPA (E2) G McCourt 7 TO 0 ______ R Hobson (7)
15 2-4-MP WEISERN BOY (10) M Streppert 8 TO 0 ______ S Tormey S
16 DF4/P- COULIN LOCH (364) Ms. E England 9 TO 0 ______ J Supple

FORM VERDICT Plenty of dead wood in an ordinary race. RACI8, whose form was given another boost by King Of Sparts yesterday, will be hard keep out of the first three. He gives the impression that a return to 3m will suit him. Quiet Momenta, expected to be

sharper for the reapplication of the visor, is feared most. 2.45 INNPLAN AMATEURS NOVICE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f

FORM VERDICT

It is difficult to get a fix on Dancing Laird's form, and he could be a false price. Reike Hey'p and SARLEY MEADOW have more solid crederities, and the latter is a step ahead of the handicapper judged on his improved display behind Prussia at Bangor in a race which was run in significantly faster time than the other two 2m hundles on the card.

stable, but she is bred to need a stiffer test of stamma and a the hope that faster ground enables her to reverse Warwick placings with Dorana Grove.

Fraser has his back to the wall

FOR SOME players, especially those certain of their places, the State matches between Tests offers the chance of some decent match practice. For others though, the opportunity is a bit like a rope with two uses, and depending on how you fare, it can either be a lifeline to selection, or something to hang

With 56 wickets from 13 Tests in 1998, few would doubt that Angus Fraser has earned his right to be England's leading howler, and an automatic Test selection. Yet, dumped for the Perth Test in favour of the pacier Alex Tudor, Fraser finds himself having to impress his doubters, as he has several times before in his ca-

Horses for courses is fine if we are talking thoroughbreds, hut when you are closer to the donkey end of the spectrum, the rules are different. Instead of perhaps trundling a few overs against Victoria this weekend and keeping the joints oiled. Fraser is now under pressure to bowl flat out and take wickets. Like most bowlers, be is not a happy bunny.

"I know there are no guar-antees and all that," Fraser said, "but wbeo you've had the kind of year I've had, you feel you've earned the right not to have to be at 100 per cent in a State game. In an ideal world, you'd save yourself for the big on Fraser's side and be is un-

Fraser is a trooper and a damned good ooe and you can see his point of view, and it will oot be easy after nine months of non-stop intensive Test cricket to make something as relatively mundane as playing Victoria in an empty MCG, the highlight of your life.

To make matters worse, at least from a combative point of view, Victoria, as has been the habit of most English counties ham Thorpe has no such guaragainst visiting sides, are fielding a weakened side. With two hander, back permitting, is Shield matches coming up playing for his right to remain after the England game, Vic- on tour. toria are resting their key players, a retinue that includes Shane Warne, Damien Flemfel and the promising David

BY DEREK PRINGLE in Melbourne

understand why, after years of psychological dominance over England, he is wary of exposing himself hefore time.

Since his operation, the Australian media have logged his every move and it is now a question of whether Warne or Christmas will come first.

Although the circumstances are different, Fraser like Warne, is also having to prove himself all over again.

"I feel I'm under pressure when I don't deserve to be," said Fraser, the old county pro in him speaking up. "The way I've been brought up at Middiesex is that not only are you competing against the opposition but to be the best howler in the side as well.

"In Perth I felt delighted for Alex [Tudor], but because I wasn't playing, I felt a bit belpless too. You don't mind being outbowled, but when you aren't in the team, your destiny is not really your own."

There is also the danger, that by trying to impress - as Fraser surely must over the next few days - that a player deserts the method that has brought him to prominence, and in its place adopts madness. Experience, however, is likely to fall into that trap.

"You have to have faith and stick to what you do best. My strength is that I know my limitations. I'm not a Glenn Mc-Grath or a Curtly Ambrose, much as I'd like to be. Although conditions haven't perhaps suit ed me yet on tour, I'm not about to do anything different."

If Fraser is fighting for a

place in the next Test, he is at MARK TAYLOR, the Australian least fit enough to do so. Graantee and the Surrey left-

Stewart, and the opening batsman Michael Atherton, who both need runs under their belts, Thorpe, presuming be will miss the one-dayers, must A depleted side holds little allure for anyone, but while there for another month on the road. is little doubt that Warne's As he and Fraser are conpresence would have created a cerned, it promises to be an in-

Test in Adelaide. Ryan Campbell, the flam-

second Test against Australia in Perth. Now be has to prove himself all over again Taylor's Canberra date with England

captain, will lead the Prime Minister's XI against England in their one-day tour match at Canberra's Manuka Oval oo 17 December.

Taylor was yesterday chosen Unlike his captain, Alec to captain the XI, which includes several Australian players with hopes of selection for the World Cup, in the traditional match against the tourists. It will be played two days after the scheduled finish of the third

> boyant wicketkeeper-batsman who hammered a brilliant 146

off 147 balls against England for Western Australia last month, is included, alongside his state colleagues Simon Katich and Matt Nicholson.

The paceman Augus Fraser is consoled by the England coach, David Lloyd, after being dropped for the

The Gloucestershire allrounder, Andrew Symonds, who played his first one-day international for Australia in Pakistan last month, and Mark Harrity, the South Australia left-arm pace bowler, are also included in the line-up.

PRIMAE MINISTER'S XI (v England, Canberra, 17 December): M.A. Taylor (NSW, Capt), R. J. Campbell (WA), 2. N. Creevey (Queercland), L. Hensen (ACT), M.A. Harity (SA), B. J. Hodge (Victoria), S.M. Kadch (WA), O. J. Marsh (Carsmia), M. Michalson (WA), C. J. Rochards (NSW), A. Symonds (Queenshard).

Hair stands down to avoid controversy

DARRELL HAIR, the Australian umpire, has agreed not to officiate in any international matches involving Sri Lanka this season, averting fears of a dispute between the Australian and Sri Lankan cricket boards.

Denis Rogers, the chairman of the Australian Cricket Board said yesterday that Hair no longer wanted to be considered for matches involving Sri Lanka during next year's limited-overs series between Australia, Sci Lanks and England.

The issue had threatened to overshadow the series after cussing the issue with other Sri Lankan authorities com-

plained at Hair's criticism of their off-spinner, Muttiab Muralitharan. In a receotly published book Hair described Muralitharan's bowling action as "diabolical" and said he would have oo heshitation noballing him in the future.

The Sri Lankans called on the ACB to stand Hair down from their matches, but the ACB passed the matter on to the International Cricket Council, which is yet to make a decision. Hair said he made his decision to stand down after dis-

Houllier has been scouring ish FA that will allow another French defender, Jean-Michel

Steve McManaman has tried to quash speculation about his future by stressing his com-

been surrounded by talk of a big move abroad when his contract runs out at the end of the season. Real Madrid and Barcelona have both heen linked with McManaman, who could earn a lucrative free transfer

denies bete irregularity

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, denied yesterday that any of his players had breached tough new Football Association rules on betting.

Kinnear

The FA has asked Wimbledon to explain "as a matter of urgency" a reported claim by Kinnear that his players had put bets on themselves at 66-1 to win the Worthington

Kinnear said: "It's an absolute joke and it's very sad indeed. When I said the lads had a few quid on us I was talking about friends of mine - not the players. I also said we took 66-1 about finding Lord Lucan
- but I see that did not appear in any papers."

However, what did appear in the papers, in last night's London Evening Standard, was a column by Wimbledon's Jamaican international midfielder Robbie Earle.

"We would really like to go on and win the competition," Earle wrote, "not just for ourselves hut for Joe Kinnear, even though some of the lads had a flutter on us at 66-1." Who the

"lads" were was not explained. Wimbledon reached the last four of the Worthington Cup hy beating Chelsea on Tuesday. Tightened regulations on betting in the game were drawn up by the FA last year which declared that no betting of any kind would be allowed. This fol-

BY MARK PIERSON

lowed a report by Sir John Smith in the wake of the collapse of the match-fixing case in which Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers were all cleared.

Following Sir John's report, the FA issued a blanket ban on all types of betting by players, managers and directors - even if it was on their team winning - as that could possibly lead to a financial temptation to try to influence the opposition.

The report had warned: The rules have been widely disregarded and if they continue to be broken, it will be at the offeoder's peril. The new rule is clear - you should not

Premier League chairthan have set up a working party to examine the prospect of appointing full-time referees. The chairmen decided at

their quarterly meeting in London that the concept should be further investigated before they would consider giving it more serious consideration.

They heard a presentation from the Premier League referees' officer, Philip Don, who will now work alongside representatives of three top-flight clubs to examine the pros and

Silvestre deaf under threat

GERARD HOULLIER'S bopes of snapping up Internazionale's brilliant young French defender. Michael Silvestre, look doomed to failure.

The new Liverpool manager has been trailing the player, who was in the French Under-20 squad be coached in 1997. and was boping that he could take advantage of a dispute between the Italian club and Rennes, the French side.

Rennes have protested to football's world ruling body. Fifa, that Silvestre and his former club-mate Ousmané Dabo, who both left them under the Bosman ruling to join Inter in the summer, are still technically

their players. Houllier expects to bear the outcome of the Fifa verdict today. If Silvestre is deemed to still belong to Rennes, they will be happy to sell him for around 13m. However, a spokesman for Inter said: "I think Rennes are not living in the land of reality. Both players a very happy here.

"If anybody wants to buy them they will have to talk to us. not Rennes. They would be expensive even if we wanted to let them go, and we don't."

Europe searching for defensive reinforcements. Liverpool are also still awaiting the international clearance from the Turk-Ferri, to complete his £1.7m move from Istanbulspor.

mitment to Liverpool. The England winger has

under the Bosman ruling. But McManaman has in-

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

the glory days back to Anfield. He said: "People keep linking me with clubs - hut the positioo is that I am under cootract to

"It is the only club I've ever played for and I am still hoping we can sort out a deal for when my contract expires at the eod of the season. I want to emulate those players I watched as a kid

- Phil Neal, Phil Thompsoo and Graeme Souness - and win medals. Then I want to win

them again and again." Vinnie Jones, the former Wimbledon and Wales captain. is considering a move to Burnley, after being excluded & In the first team at Queen's Park Rangers, where be was the assistant to the former manager Ray Harford.

Barcelona have signed a pre-contract with Fabio Capello to take over as the coach of the Catalan club next season, Spanish newspapers reported

Capello, formerly in charge of Milan and Real Madrid, is reportedly being lined up to replace the current coach, Louis van Gaal, whose future bas been jeopardised since the cly were knocked out of the European Cup in the Champions' League stage for the second successive season

South Africa have named Trott Moloto as their new national coach. The 42-year-old was the assistant to Philippe Troussier at the World Cup in France this year and has been the caretaker coach since the Frenchman's exit. Carlos Alberto Parreira, the former Brazil coach, turned down the job.

The former international referee Michael Zen-Ruffinen has taken over as the general secretary of Fifa. The 39-yearold Swiss national, who joined world football's governing body in 1986, succeeds his compatriot Sepp Blatter, who was elected sisted be wants to help bring Fifa president in June.

Everton set to stay at Goodison Park

EVERTON SEEM certain to abandon plans to move from Goodison Park to a new ground, as well a proposal to appoint a new chief executive.

The new men in charge of the boardroom at the Merseyside club, the chairman, Sir Philip Carter and his deputy Bill Ken-wright, have decided to put a low priority on both these controversial issues. Their aim is to make a hid for the shares, estimated at being worth £50m. owned by the former chairman Peter Johnson, and to get Ever ton back on an even keel before

considering two of Johnson's most far-reaching plans.

Johnson faced considerable opposition from fans' organisations over his scheme to leave Goodison. Even his attempts to organise a poll of sup-porters, which he maintained gave him a mandate to go ahead with the scheme, was fu-

riously opposed as unreliable.

The plans, too, for the appointment of a chief executive have been on hold for some time. Everton advertised the post many months ago, and held a couple of interviews.

Two divisions: The professionals' verdicts

THE ADMINISTRATOR Jim Cumbes (Lancashire)



with the existing format.

'Second tier teams will still attract sponsors'

"IT WAS time for a change and ditions they will encounter in we are pleased with the deci-Test matches. But there is room for improvement in pitchsion. We hope it will lead to a raising of standards and we will have to wait and see if it "As for the commercial imachieves that. In any event,

plications of the change, I feel that having two divisions can we were not getting anywhere only improve the situation. With "The idea of conferences promotion and relegation iswas put forward and rejected sues at stake there will be last year because no one could more matches of consequence and therefore more media covunderstand it, but a two-division erage, which will mean more arrangement is much more exposure for potential soonsors.

straightforward and easy to "I don't think teams in the "Availability of players is second tier will find it more difficult to attract sponsorship. In going to be a problem because of the size of the international soccer, there is plenty of interest in the First Division and I programme and clashes between Test and one-day inthink this will be the case in ternationals and county cricket. Playing in a division matches. But given time the where 30 per cent of the teams competition will benefit. will be promoted must have an "I don't believe there would advantage over an 18-team competition in which you might always be near the bottom." be any benefit in going back to uncovered pitches alongside the new structure because Jim Cumbes is chief executive

players have to be tested in con- of Lancashire

THE PLAYER David Millns (Leicestershire)



'We must develop quality of young players'

"I HAVE a mixed view. I can appreciate the arguments in favour of two divisions but I was happy with the current set-up and not only because we have come out on top twice in three seasons. There is no doubt it will stimulate interest in the game but standards will not necessarily improve. Already we are turning out England teams who can barely bat through a session and get out to one-day sbots and there is a danger that two-division cricket will produce more players

"It only needs for you to suffer a couple of wash-outs and lose a game or two and suddenly you are chasing your tail. Then counties are going to start producing green flyers or dust bowls because they are under pressure to win games. And

batsmen will feel they have to go for balls they should be leaving alone, ft should be a rule that every match starts on a hrand new pitch rather than a used one. It is a step in the right direction but only the first of many steps that need to be taken. More attention needs to be paid to developing the quality of young players and encouraging existing players to stay at home in the close season.

"Too many get on a plane as soon as the season finishes and go off to coach in South Africa or New Zealand and other places. They come back having learned nothing. They would be much better off staying at home working on their own game alongside better players. David Millns helped Lencestershire win the 1998 County Championship

INTERVIEWS BY JON CULLEY

THE COACH Martyn Moxon (Yorkshire)



Aim for balance between bat and ball'

"TM NOT against it as I'm sure it will create more interest in Championship cricket, but I don't think it will have the effect of improving the quality. "The question that needs to

be addressed is the matter of getting the pitches right, of achieving a better balance between bat and ball. You need surfaces which allow batsmen to build an innings and force bowlers to work for their wickets. Then standards will get better

"We are trying to create a successful England team hut at the end of the day if you are going to have county matches where 15 wickets are going down on the first day you are not going to produce better

players.
"There is a conflict between the interests of the Test sides and the counties and I don't think having two divisions will after that. Everyone wants to see the England side do well but we also want to win our

"Counties are bound to prepare pitches to suit their strengths because they want to win matches and if you have issues of promotion and relegation at stake the pressure to do so will be greater still. "You need to have pitches

prepared to certain standards of quality and the regulations need to be enforced. The present system of reporting pitches is not always adequate because by the second day the character of the wicket may have changed. You only have to look at last season, when there was only one instance of a county being docked points for a poor pitch. Perhaps the answer is to have independent pitch inspectors present on the

first day." Martyn Mozon is director of coaching with Yorkshire

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manufacture made his infeator for the west down made he west down made for the earth manufacture for the coronal manufacture. The high remature who made for the coronal manufacture for the coronal manufacture for the coronal manufacture. heser United first to ad scored in the la tundral on his 1966goto mature into the ave done on to end that water

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Levton Orient KINGS**TONIA** Very name**j** of short-ball sides chaps hooped share ing teams like

sens. Corinthian Car witch Hamlet. reich Hamlet. show it was, the club all ements being to rom the Athenian Le relathmian and the 1800 юкату FA Алаа Hille Ks might have

the on Pathe News kin Tal to Hendon.
This Sunday, on a preen in a pub nearly some groudly present the property of the company. King against Bazza Henny the company. eyron Orient

Fortunately for tradi in- man at the hear out a success is one who in are as old as footbal thapple. now 5 one for a series of non-l into what Brian Clough

ATHLETICS Thomas and Denise voted Sportsman of the Year in an of the Year in an of the Year in the Year in the Year in three gold medal three gold medal

and her Sportswoman after taking the European after taking the European Championship the European Championship defending he European has sittle the Land of the day of the land of the lan BASEBALL

this ago Cubs have the former her season with the straight and the former Sarates right-hander Scott S. BASKETBALL PEAN CHAMPIONSHIP S Group C (NOes, Machine 15 England 60, Belongs 7 Denmark 63.

BOWLS
USGOW CLASSIC (Network)
Uster-finals: P Foster [50
10/401 7-1 7-2; G Harlow (E)
10/401 7-2 7-0 TODAY' NUMBE

The number of co Swiss tennis play Martina Hingis

has won so far i her first driving lesson in Zurich Wednesday.

Kidd steps into front line

Born and bred a Manchester United man. Alex Ferguson's No 2 has

Tip JAS the twilight after the brilliance of Denis Law and Old Trafford anxiously wanted someone to admire who was not too good looking, not too gifted and not called George. Someone who was good but within reach of lesser mortals.

This was the early Seventies when pitch invasions were commonplace but when one supporter made his way to Brian Kidd it was clear no malice directed his intentions. Instead he went down on his knees before the embarrassed young man and handed him a gold paper crown. The succes-

sion to Law had taken place. Except the coronation was premature. The hugely gifted teenager who made the Manchester United first team at 18 and scored in the European Cup final on his 19th birthday did not mature into the striker he should have done. Kidd, the player, was one of Old Trafford's great losses; Kidd, the manager, could eod that way, too.

made the inevitable breakaway to seek his fortune. By Guy Hodgson of Blackburn Rovers, ending an association with United that

began as a boy born in the city and continued via the Stretford End then the pitch to the backroom staff. It will be a wrench he will feel deeply but even the most loyal No 2 wants to be No 1 one day particularly one who was unfulfilled as a player.

Kidd, 49, joined United as a 14-year-old, and at first his progress was meteoric. After winning two England caps his form deteriorated in a declining team, however, and there was no huge outcry when Tommy Docherty sold him to Arsenal in 1974 after scoring 70 goals in 255 games. From Highbury he went to Manchester City, Everton and Bolton Wanderers before finishing his career in the United States with Fort Lauderdale and the Atlanta Chiefs.

In 1985 be returned to Britain

1996, he was appointed manager of Preston North End for a spell that was little short of calamitous. He lasted 12 games, winning only one (against Port Vale), and, until Blackburn came knocking, appeared disillusioned with doing the top joh.

Instead he had joined United's youth development programme, being taken on to the staff by Alex Ferguson, who made him assistant manager when Archie Knox left to join Rangers in 1991. "What the gaffer saw in me I don't know," Kidd said last year. "I asked him once 'why me?' and he just started laughing. I haven't asked him since."

Whatever it was, it worked. Four championships, two Doubles, Kidd has been as much a part of that success as anyone;

to become assistant manager at Ferguson acknowledged as keeps his feelings to himself, re-Swindon Town and, in January much by announcing him as vealing his character only on the training ground. Consehis preferred successor. "We're both from the same workingqueotly his reputation as one of Europe's leading coaches has class backgrounds, which helps," Kidd said, "We're both come from word of mouth very stubborn and we have rows rather than any bragging on his every day. We argue like cat and part. "It's not my style," he says. dog but once he comes to a decoming in his autobiography cision I'll back him all the way."

يمكذا من الاجل

A family man with two grown-up sons and a daughter in her late teens, his success has not been accompanied by bombast. Indeed, he has shunned publicity and was embarrassed by the television pictures of his exuberant celehrations when United heat Sheffield Wednesday deep into injury time in their championship season of 1992-93.

While Fergie wears his emotions like an overcoat, Kidd, a religious man who goes to church every Sunday, generally but Blackburn with a strong

in Jack Walker provide an altogether different proposition. Rovers are bottom of the Premiership and if they do go

down little stigma will attach itself to Kidd, while there is the prospect of a rapid rise up the table once the players are fit. It is a no-lose situation with the odds stacked in favour of improving a managerial reputation.

Because that is the one thing that Kidd lacks and with Ferguson seemingly determined to go on into his 60s he is unlikely to gain it at Old Trafford. He is only seven years younger than United's manager and unless he has success elsewhere he might be considered too old himself when the time comes.

If Martin Edwards and the current board remain in control Kidd could take their guarantees at face value, but BSkyB lies over the horizon and might want a more glamorous figure than a 50-something when Ferguson retires. Bryan Robson and Gordon Strachan, both for-



Kidd: Second try as No 1

mer United players, could fit that hill.

Kidd might be a more natural assistant but he harbours ambitions to be the top man at the club he loves and the Blackburn route could be the best way to get there. "I want to do more for the club," he said, "but at the end of the day the pow-ers that be at Manchester United will decide what happens."

But there is no harm in a little persuasive good work elsewhere is there? He would like his next coronation at Old Traf-

Villa fans asked to hold fire on Yorke

By PHIL SHAW

WHEN DWIGHT YORKE defected from Aston Villa to Manchester United, John Gregory said he could have shot him. As the Villa manager prepared the Premiership leaders for tomorrow's visit of secondplaced United, he appealed for supporters to hold their verbal fire until Yorke became a legitimate target at kick-off time.

Responding to a call from the Villa fanzine, Heroes & Villons. to give the £12.6m striker "the silent treatment". Gregory said: "It's out of order to suggest that people totally ignore Dwight. I hope be gets a standing ovation from our fans because he deserves it. It's their first chance to thank him for everything the did for Villa. Then at three o'clock be becomes the enemy

Gregory has declined to retract his remark about "shooting" Yorke, believing he would not be true to himself if he did, but insists there is "nothing to heal" between them. "It was just how I felt at the time, I was hurt that he didn't want to play for Villa, though I still have the utmost admiration for him as a

Indeed, Yorke and Andy Cole would have been lining up against United if Gregory's plans had come to fruition. They had, he admitted, been his "dream team" for Villa's attack. "It's an outstanding partnership. Andy's the out-and-out No 9, Dwight's the ooe who hrings others into the game. The goal the two of them created for Cole in Barcelona was phenomenal - it could very well eod up being my goal of the

Both teams are leaking goals more freely than is customary for championship contenders. Villa having conceded 16 in six games. "Fortunately we're scoring a few too," said Gregory. "but so are United. I saw them last Sunday and they looked as though they might score every time they went forward. Then again, Leeds looked like scoring a few as well. So it could be a 9-9 thriller on

with acute back pain during Villa's 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest, trained normally vesterday hut is unlikely to be risked against United. "We'll have to see how he reacts," Gregory said. "That's the problem: he can train OK, then it's agony the next day. We've got to be careful not to do any permanent damage.

"Paul saw a specialist this week and we don't think he is going to need surgery. But we were also told that if we hammer him over the busy Christmas programme, we could suffer the consequences because be might end up needing an operation."

Last Temp Forecast

Chapple's belief in the old values

kingstonian's manager will demand entertainment in the FA Cup tie with Leyton Orient. By Steve Tongue



from the Athenian League to not too cheap to watch football the Isthmian and 6n 1933) to win a solitary FA Amateur Cup. In tertainment, sometimes even

final to Hendon. This Sunday, on a giant screen in a pub near you, Sky Sports proudly presents the FA Cup, sponsored by an insucce company Kingstonian' against Bazza Hearn's I broke my leg at twenty to four, Levton Orient.

Fortunately for traditionalists, the man at the heart of the at exactly the same time." club's success is one whose values are as old as football itself. Geoff Chapple, now 53, has done for a series of non-League clubs what Brian Clough in his ment with Windsor and Eton.

KINGSTONIAN. THE prime achieved at a higher very name is redolent level, lifting them to un-of short-back-and- dreamed of heights. It might sides chaps in funny even be His Master's Voice speaking - without the bornbastic tone - when Chapple Sports, Corinthian Casuals or says; "I like the game played a certain way. My philosophy on for much of the century that football is that there's grass on is how it was, the club's main the pitch and that's where the and I base an awful lot on en-1960 the Ks might have featured before winning, because there's briefly on Pathe News losing the more to life than winning a

Chapple still reels off without hesitation: "Saturday 8 March, 1980, the blackest day of my life. got into hospital and got the news that my father had died

Playing career over, after progressing no higher than Aldershot reserves, he got a happier hreak into manage-

game of football." Much of that belief can be dated to a time and place that



Eric Cantona was more forth-

My Story. "At some clubs train-

mg sessions have no interest."

he wrote, "but there are coach-

es like Kiddo who make you want

to train. He gives you a lift. He

motivates you... He is down to

earth, pragmatic and honest."

So why does someone who is

the perfect No 2 want to leave

his comfortable niche and

emerge into the hright lights?

Everton and Manchester City

have approached him before, the

former as recently as last sum-

mer, and he turned them down

Athenian League and we went approached him. Again, his restraight through the Isthmian divisions to the Premiership in four seasons, which is probably still a record."

In 1984 Chapple had his first sniff of glory in the FA Cup, only to be left aching for what might have been. "We were due to play at home to Bournemouth in the second round, but the pitch was under water, so the draw was made that night. First out of the hat was Windsor and Eton or Bournemouth will play Manchester United'. We drew with Bournemouth, lost the replay 2-0 and Bournemouth

went on and beat Man United." On the strength of his record

SPORTING DIGEST

call of the detail is total: "They'd played seven and lost seven and My first game was against Clapton and the gate was 87 people. We went down that season with 54 points, which was a lot. So we changed the personnel rapidly and grew and grew and it be-

came a fairy-tale." Colourful chapters included beating West Bromwich Albion (4-2, away), losing 1-0 at Everton and drawing at Coventry in wins in four seasons; and finishing runners-up twice in the

Vauxhall Conference.

reaching the Football League. four-year contract, which Chap-Instead Chapple's last match as manager 18 months ago, was in were already out of the FA Cup. front of 24,000 - including Pele -as they beat Dagenham in the Trophy final at Wembley. The celebrations were clouded by doubts about his future, as the club dithered over offering a

loog-term contract. "I could never see myself leaving. I was treated as part of the furniture really. But I had a little daughter and I just needed security. I didn't ask for the FA Cup; three FA Trophy a pay rise: I was on the same wage in 1997 as I'd been in '92 when I went full-time."

DUBAL SEVENS CHARAPTONSHIP (UAE): Group Ne Fifi 35 England Select 5: Warbiers International (N2) 33 USA 7: England Select 29 Warbiers 21; Fij 36 USA 7: England Select 29 Warbiers 21; Fij 36 USA 7: England Select 39 USA 12; Fiji 34 Warbiers 12. Group X: New Zealand 43 Scotland 0: Natal [SA] 57 Taivan 0; Scotland 17 Natal 5: New Zealand 55 Taivan 0; New Zealand 18 Natal 0; Scotland 43 Taivan 0. Group Y: Australia 31 Canada 21; Tonga 28 Hong Kong 19; Canada 21; Tonga 17; Australia 33 Hong Kong 7; Australia 29 Tonga 12; Canada 14 Hong Kong 12. Group Z: Western Samoa 57 Morocco 0: Zimbabwe 17 France 12; France 17 Morocco 5; Western Samoa 38 Zimbabwe 19; Western Samoa 22 France 21; Zimbabwe 12 Morocco 7.

ple accepted, not without regret. "It was a very sad day for me, because I'd put so much in there and I wanted to do a lot more." He has begun doing it in-

stead at the 10-year-old Kingsmeadow ground, just outside Kingston town centre, increasing gates from 400 to 2,000 and winning promotion in his first season to the Conference, where the red-and-white hoops now sit in the top six, comfortably above Woking (who have long since sacked his replacement John McGovern).

How does he do it? As with Kingstonian, local rivals and all the best managers, by the

into signing, and fit him into "the jigsaw puzzle". Gavin Holligan, an 18-year-old striker, had been turned down by half a dozen clubs before Chapple signed him last summer on the evidence of a 10-minute spell in a pre-season friendly; once Kingstonian are out of the FA Cup, he will join West Ham in a deal eventually worth several hundred thousand pounds. That in turn will pay for the upgrading of Kingsmeadow to Football League standard.

Yet this is the sort of manager who does not even get an interview when a League club has a vacancy. Perhaps they, The story should have ended, a step lower down the ladder, ability to judge a player, often too, are living in the past.

ATHLETICS

Iwan Thomas and Denise Lewis have been voted Sportsman and Dortswoman of the Year in the an-nial poll of Britain's sports writers. Thomas, a Welsh 400 metres runner, won three gold medals in the European Championships, World Cup and Commonwealth Games last summer, Lewis, a heptathlete, retained her Soortswoman of the Year crown after taking the gold in the European Championships before successfully defending her Com-monwealth Games title.

Ben Johnson has filed an applica-tion for reinstatement with Cana-Lion for reinstatement with Canada's track and field federation.
Athletics Canada, the governing body, will discuss Johnson's request this weekend.

BASEBALL

The Chicago Cubs have agreed terms for next season with Sammy Sosa's slugging partner Herry Rodriguez and the former San Diego andres right-hander Scott Sanders.

BASKETBALL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Seral-B-nais: Group C (Ries, Wednesday): Ukraine 66 England 60; Belarus 79 Spain 93; Israel 67 Denmark 63.

BOWLS GLASGOW CLASSIC (Ketvin Hall) Quarter-finals: P Foster (Sco) bt S Rees (Wol) 7-1 7-2: G Harlow (Eng) bt W Richards (Eng) 7-2 7-0.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of cars the 18-year-old Swiss tennis player, Martina Hingis, has won so far in her career. She took her first driving lesson in Zurich on Wednesday.

BOXING

Glenn Catley will fight Andy Flute for the vacant international Boxing Federation Inter-Continental supermiddleweight title at Bristol's Whitchurch Sports Centre tomorrow.

FOOTBALL

Morocco has formally notified Fifa, world football's governing body, of its interest in hosting the 2006 World Cup finals. The north African country is the sixth country to confirm its desire to host the tournament fol-

its interest in nosting the 2006 words Cup finals. The north African country is the sixth country to confirm its desire to host the tournament following Germany. England, Brazil, Egypt and Ghana.
TRANSFER: Bo Anderson (goalkeeper) Lyngby (Den) to Bristol City (\$190,000]. LOAN: Samsand About (forward) West Ham to Ipswich.
WEDENSSON'S LATE RESULTS: Enropeas Champtolose's Largue Group B: Galatasaray 1 Junentus 1. Worthington Cap Countrer-Plants: Leleaster 1 (Lennon 67) Blackburn Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 3 (Amstrong 48, 55, Ginola 86) Man Utol 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Colorenham 1 (Sheringhum 71). Nationalide Michael Model (Sheringhum 1 (Sheringh

7.30 unless stated FR CUP SECOND ROUND agton v Manchester City (8.0)...

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UNIUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: East Preston v Littlehamp-ton Town.

Bitlinghum Town v Easington. Press & Journal Highland Leaguer Deveronvale of Fraserburgh 1: Lossemuer Deveronvale of Fraserburgh 1: Lossemuer Deveronvale of Fraserburgh 1: Lossemuer Deveronvale of State of Cachinacudin 3: Rothes 5: Fort William 1. Prostins League Pressies Distriction 1: First Division: Barrisley 3 Wolves 2, Burnley 2 Bolton 0: Tranmere 1 Manchester City 2, West Bromwich Ablon of Shefflield Wednesday 0. Second Division: Shrewsbury 7: Blackpool 2: Stockpoort County 1: Scarborough 1: Wireham 3 Bradford 0: Rotherham 1 Notts Councy 0. Third Divisions Hull City 0 Hartlepool Utd 2: Rochdale 2 Chester Field 0: Darlington 0 Scunfflorpe 4. Alexa Issurance Combination First Divisions: Colchester A Warford 2: Swindon 3 Reading 2: Wimbledon 1 Bournerough 6: Chariton 3 Barnet 0: Crystal Palace 0 Cambridge Utd 1: The Times 7th Youth Cup Second rounds: Bishori's Storrford 1 Romford 1: Walssall 1 Phymouth Argyle 0. Second rounds: Official Phymouth Phym

England's Lee Westwood has been named as the European tour's Golfer of the Year by the Associa-tion of Golf Writers and represen-Golfer of the Year by the Association of Golf Writers and representatives of the tour management.

#ELLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE (Sem City, SA) First-round ecores: 67 N Price (Zim), 65 M O'Meyra (US), B Langer (Ger), I Leonard (US), 70 E ES (SA), 71 C Montgomeric (Sco), 72 O Duval (US), T Natson (US), L Westwood (Eng), T Woods (US), 74 J Famelik (Swe), 73 Fluryk (US), AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Mediade) Landing Bras-round scores (Aze galess stated): 65 S Appleby, 70 P Senlor, G Norman, R Gibson (Can), S Scahill (NZ), K Druce, 71 R Pampling, II Wasson, G Chalmers, T El-Rott, P Gow, A Baddeley, G Ogilvy, 72 J Benepe (US), P Lonard, J Cooper, J Rose (Eng), B Partridge, R Allenby, W Smith, R Davis, G Dodd, 73 A Painter, F Nobio (NZ), W Riley, C Spence, T Densey (US), M Allen, R Swanson, P McWhilinney, R Russell (Sco), R Green, 74 B King, O McKenzie, B Jones, A Stottz, J Van De Welde (Fr), G Stratidd, E Boult (NZ), B Kennedy, R Byrd (US), L Parsons, O Small IN(Z), B Mayrair (US), S Talt, A Bonhorme, 73 S Thompson (NZ), O Ecob., J Huston (US), C Parry, E Stedman, S Alker (NZ), G Kenny, G Immer (NZ) B Hughes, P Tazaurangi (NZ), C Franto (Par), P O'Malley, W Grady, R Haller, 76 P Devenport (NZ), I L Guespy (Fr), S Laycock, S Robinson, O Glichrist (US), B Rumford, S Lesney, O Podich, S Gardiney, I Nors, M Long (NZ), B Estes (US), F Couples (US), S Bourier, S Ames (Itim), R Stephens, J Wade, 77 M Ecob., N O'Hern, S Webster (Eng), J Moscley, P Moloney, B Fornester, A Edwards, M Roberts, R Backwell, N Falto (Eng), O Chopra (Swe), M Goggin, P Fowler, Ne Campbel (NZ).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF INFL AND Premier Division: Bray Wan-derers v Derry City. St Patrick's Athletic v Water ford (7.4S): Shamrock Rovers v Dunds 17.45!

BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Sheffield Sharks v Leicester Riders (7.45): Worthing Bears v Derby Storm (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY REPE: Buffalo 2 Florida 1; Carolina 4 Mon-real 1; New York Islanders 2 New York Rangers 3; Toronto 3 Los Angeles 1; Cot-orado 4 Detroit 2; Edmonton 4 Phoenix 3; San Jose 0 Dallas 3.

POWERBOAT RACING

The Welshman Jonathan Jones cap-tured the Formula One world powerboat drivers' championship for the fourth time when he won the the routen time when he won the final grand prix of the season in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The 41-year-old Cardigan bank clerk was previously champion in 1986, 1989 and 1991

RUGBY LEAGUE

Australia's shrinking National League competition has lost another team with the official announcement that the Gold Coast Chargers are to fold.
The 1999 NRL competition will have
17 teams following Tuesday's breakup of the Adelaide Rams and the October merger of St George and

RUGBY UNION

RUGBY UNION
TENNIENT'S VELVET CUP Firsta-round draw: Glasgow Hawks v Kelao, Kil-manock Falcons w Musselburgh, Hawks v Boroughrank Wassonians v Meirose, Heriot's FP v Perthshire, Preston Lodge v Peebles, Stewartry v Kirkcaldy, Langholm or Linlithgow v Gala (lies to be played Soturday, 9 January).

SCOTLAND TEAM v Spain (World Cup Buropean qualifying zone Pool 3, 2,30 tomorrows, Murray Heid): G Rownsend (Brive): C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), J Mager (Edinburgh Reivers), J Lasile (Glasgow Caledonians), K Logaa (Waspe): D Hodge (Edinburgh Reivers); T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), & Burlock (Glasgow Caledonians), W Asderson (Glasgow Caledonians), S Marray (Bedford), Il Welt (Newcastic Falcons), C Matther (Edinburgh Reivers), E Paters (Barth), M Lesilla (Edinburgh Reivers), G Armstrong (Newcastic Falcons), G Armstrong (Newcastic Falcons), S Amortong (Newcastic Falcons), S Amortong (Newcastic Falcons), B Poonthey (Northampton), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), O Hilton (Bath), S Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers).

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM & CLOUCESTER CUP Parst round second leg: London Scottish v Blackheath (7.30) (or the Athletic Ground).

JEWSON MATIONAL LEAGUE THO South: Met Police v Esher (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS

TENNIS: Champions' Challenge (at Kens-Ington Olympia, London).

12 Morocco 7. Wedneson Ys Late Results: World Cep European Guarliying Zone Pool 3: Spain 21 Portugal 17. Hart Gilmore North Meliacid Championship Greater Birmingham 15 Shropshire 24. SNOOKER John Higgins has consolidated his lead at the top of the Embassy World Rankings following the capture of the Liverpool Victoria UK Champi-

onship crown on Sunday. The Scot leads Ronnie O'Sullivan, who is in second place, by 11,505 points. SQUASH

WORLD OPEN CHARPIONSHIP (Doba, Cacar) Third round; A Barada (Egy) bt T Hands (Eng) 15-7 15-B 14-15 15-9; J Power (Can) bt G Ryding (Can) 15-4 15-4 15-11; A Gough (Wal) bt K Beechill (Eng) 15-12 15-9 15-71.

HONDA CHALLENGE SENTOR TOUR-NAMENT (Kensington Olympia, Lon-don): Chric Group: Y Noah (Fr) bt G Forget (Fr) 5-7 6-4 13-11. Exhibition doubles: J Bates (GB) and P Kensmara (Aus.) bt M Petrhey (GB) and P Fleming (US) 6-3 6-2. Accord Group: M Bahva-mi (Isa) bt H Lecond (Fr) 2-5-7 10-6 (us) 0-5 6-2. Accord Group: M Balva-mi (Iran) bt H Leconte (Fr) 7-5 6-7 10-6.

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CATEGORY	NO OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Maich 6 ()ackpot:	4	£943,617	£3,774.46B
Match 5 plus bonus ball	15	£77,425	£1.161,375
Match S	726	£999	£725,274
Match 4	33.433	£47	£1,571.351
Match 3	577,706	£10	£5,777.060
TOTALS	511,884		£13,009.528

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot Central computer system shall prevail.

@ Camelol Group pic. Players must be 16 or over

FOR DE GLANVILLE P24 • FRASER MUST DO IT ALL AGAIN P28

Kidd takes command at Blackburn

BRIAN KIDD is the new manager of Blackburn Rovers on a stunning £750,000 a year contract - and with £40m to spend - after having his amhitions thwarted by Manchester

Alex Ferguson's No 2 only walked out to sign for Blackburn until 2002 when United last night failed to give him a written guarantee that be would one day be the No 1 at Old Trafford. One of the main reasons Kidd was lost to United was that the takeover move by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB means no long-term assurances could be given to him.

United fans will be seething that ooe of their favourite sons has slipped away despite initial; claims by their chief executive, Martin Edwards, he would only go "over my dead body"

Kidd met Rovers officials yesterday to discuss terms on a deal that sees his salary rise over four times from its current basic level of £180,000 a year before bonuses at United. Jack Walker, Blackburn Rovers'

owner, has also pledged him a remarkable transfer fund and promised him that he will have the final say on who he wants to bring in from at bome or abroad.

Kidd can also appoint his own staff at Blackburn and his old friend, the Manchester City coach, Willie FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

Donachie, is tipped to be his right hand man.

Kidd spoke to the Old Trafford hierarchy hefore giving Blackburn his answer as he was desperate for them to make him stay. As a friend said last night: "Brian is not just leaping at the money. He would have stayed if they had said he could be boss down the line."

However United insiders revealed that Kidd could not be given any guarantee in the middle of Murdoch's controversial take-over. Even Ferguson's new contract talks are on bold until that is resolved.

Kidd turned down approaches from Manchester City and Everton in the past, but the club's failure to promise him the joh or give him a rise made him insecure. Now he has reluctantly left to take his second crack at management. His first was a hrief spell at Preston in 1986.

Ferguson is furning about Kidd's departure, the way his No 2 has been treated and the timing of the Blackburn move. He has lost his right hand man before United's decisive Champions' League match against Bayern Munich on Wednesday, the club's biggest game for years.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BRIAN KIDD

1963: Signs schoolboy forms with United. 1964: Becomes an apprentice at United. 1966: Turns professional at Old Trafford. 1967: Makes League debut in 3-1 defeat at Everton in August. The following month

scores his first League goal in 3-1 victory at West Ham. 1968: Marks his 19th birthday by scoring in United's 4-1 extra-time triumph over Ben-fica in the European Cup final at Wembley.

1674: Leaves Old Trafford to Join Arsenal after making 264 appearances for United and scoring 70 goals. 1976: Moves from Highbury to Join Man-chester City in July.

1979: Leaves Maine Road to sign for Ever-

1980: Joins Bolton and then goes to play in the United States for four years. 1984: Returns to England to become manager of Barrow.

1986: Manages Preston for three months between January and March.

1988: Alex Ferguson brings him back to Manchester United as lunior coach and director of the club's school of excellence in 1990: Becomes United's youth development officer and helps nurture the club's current crop of young stars.

1991: Steps up to become Ferguson's assistant following Archie Knox's decision to issant following Archie Knox's decision to join Walter Smith at Rangers.

1995: United refuse Manchester City per-mission to speak to him about their vacant managers into its lives.

manager's job in June. 1998: United rebutf Everton's attempts to lure him back to Goodfson in the summer and he is rewarded with a new four-year contract. Blackburn target tim as their new manager, following the departure of Roy bedseen

There are oo obvious succes sors within Old Trafford to step into the post. The old boys Brian McClair and Steve Bruce will be linked with the job but neither has Kidd's coaching knowledge. Gordon Strachan,

> David Moyes is admired within the club and is in the Kidd mould. The vacancy is difficult to fill. Fergie has relied heavily on Kidd in the past couple of years with the coach taking great responsibility while the manager delegates more work to him. The pair have differed on

some issues but here is no sugges-

the uncertainty at boardroom level. Kidd will face a testing time tempting players to join Blackburn at the foot of the Premier League, but Walker's millions will help. Sources close to Kidd say he will try to sign four or five players quickly and there

could be some surprise departures. Kidd would love to raid Old Trafford but knows the chances of buying from there are slim. He has a good knowledge of foreign talent and the cash to spend. Blackburn are in the black despite Roy Hodgson's spending spree this season. Kidd could also raise more funds by letting players leave.

Sam Chisholm yesterday reigned as a director of Tottenham Hotspur's club and pic boards because of a conflict of interests involving the FA Premier League.

He has been appointed as consultant to the Premier League to advise on future television contracts and League rules state that no emnor consultant Premier League can be a director of a Premier League club.

Chisholm joined Spurs before the start of this season because of his experience of media issues, particularly in television. He was formerly a senior figure at BSkyB. His appointment by the League had already prompted questions from Manchester United's chief executive, Martin Edwards.



y prompted questions from Achester United's chief executive, Yannick Noah vaults the net in a moment of supreme showboating during yesterday's Honda Challenge seniors match with his fellow Frenchman Guy Forget at Olympia. In an entertaining encounter full of energy and eccentricity, which had the crowd loving every moment, Noah came back to win a tight game 6-7, 6-4, 13-11

Report, page 25; Photograph: David Ashdown

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS American man encountering Communist's ar- 23 gument is totally uninterested (5,5) A girl more disposed for

palaver? (9) Make fun of dress with no front (4) 10 A rumpus back in second year (6) 11 Man faced with double

Dutch? (8) 13 Partners in game each with a yen to refuse (3-3) 14 I'm sorry but I don't

want to be bung (6,2)
17 Operatic heroine - girl
in Algiers? (8) 19 Easy part of exams -I'm pieased (6) 21 College subject too

much for such a hrainbox? (8) Certainly a display of selfishness (6) 25 Intend soldiers to capture leader of army (4) 26 When audiences rise on Radio 3, say, broadcast's kept back (5,4) 27 Fixed a place for punish-

ing work (5-5)

Monopoly? Directors ready for that (5,4)
Fell over in a space (4)
English diaries incorrectly showing a significant date! (4,4) Cheers enveloping a British politician in Florida city (5)

irritation when it's not right (7)

Punishment area in

DEPUNSE CURRANTS
OF WAY A K
BUCKBOARD VOTGE
OF A L A V W

which priest is working, very affected (6,4) Turn nasty if guy gets upset about a bit of lip (6) Article irritates some of

the Isle of Wight (3.7) Kill gangster's leader? Lift-shaft should be successful (5,4) 16 Plays put out by inhabitant of Australia? (8) 18 A mostly sick people beginning to treat dis-

ease (7)
20 A hrief description of
Soviet Union before the
break-up? (6)
22 Unstable chap rocks eodlessly (5) 24 Note shortened skirt (4) Historic vote passes two-division format

THE SPACE SHUTTLE may not have got off the ground yesterday, but English cricket blasted off into the 21st century as history was made at Lord's when the England and Wales Cricket Board voted overwhelmingly for a two-divisional County Championship

beginning in the year 2000. A vote of 15-1 with three abstentions was a complete turnaround from last year, when only seven first-class counties voted for the change when the ECB chairman, Lord MacLaurin, had presented his report "Raising the Standard".

"It has pleased me a great deal," MacLaurin said. "It is a very important day for the game. It will add an edge to the Championship, beginning next year when the top nine will form the First Division."

The object of the change. which will end 110 years of the one-dimensional County Championship first recogniseo in 1890, is to hardeo the competitive edge of the England team and produce a stronger Test side, but MacLaurin tempered his delight when be added: "It is a move forward, but it is not the answer as to why we are un-

derachieving at Test level. "It is part of the jigsaw we put together to raise standards and most of those things are now in operation. We bave 400 professional players in firstclass cricket in this country and we should be one of the best Test teams in the world." David Graveney, chairman of

the England selectors and chief

executive of the Professional

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Cricketers' Association, which safeguards the interests of players and is responsible for their training, education and welfare, welcomed the move. "Tve always been pro a two-divisional championship. The benefits are difficult to quantify at this stage, but we will probably start to see them from oext season when cricket will be played closer to the edge, so to speak."

The solitary vote against the

change was that of Glamorgan. "It is irrelevant what we at Glamorgan thought," their cap tain, Matthew Maynard, said. "My impression was that the championship had grown stronger lately, with a number of sides proving that they could win it. But we have to be positive, there is no point in being any other way. It will be an historic season next year and in the year 2000 I just hope I will be around to take part in the new format. It does mean that next summer

to finish in the top nine." The three abstentions were Marylebone Cricket Club, Essex and Durham.

it will be desperately important

The Essex chairman, David Acfield, said: "We were not against English cricket moving forward. We did not support 'no change', we were against two divisions and we did support a regional scheme. In the end we abstained because we felt there was nothing for us to vote for."

Matthew Engel, the editor of

Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

the decision. He said: "There are some short-term advantages in enhancing interest and increasing the chances of sponsorship. But in the long term I think it will be damag-ing and work against England's chances of of winning Tests because it will create conflict be-

tween club and country." In the end the vote would appear to have been a formality. Lord MacLaurin said: "Last September it was all dooe in a bit of a rush. I wanted two divisions then but we were not in a positioo to put any financial

safeguards in place. The question of England players being contracted to the ECB is expected to be resolved when the First Class Forum meets again next March. The ECB's player registration regulations will remain largely as they are, something which Graveney welcomed, since half his PCA membership would he in the Second Division. The Super Cup, involving

the top eight finishers in next season's championship, will continue in the first year of the Other decisions included:

A free hit for oo-balls in the 45-over National League, which begins next season.

The points system in the County Championship to change to 12 for a win (with bonus points remaining at four each for batting and bowling), and a draw increased from three points to four.

Professionals' verdict,



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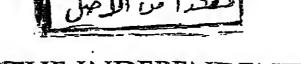
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AWasie

Its mission: to build a stationam the stars the size of two fuerball paters. Its cost: \$60bn and counting Its place in history (if it ever seasoft the ground): the first white elephants in orbit and the most expensive public relations exercise on car

wo flashing red lights inside the cockpit of the Space Shuttle vesterday morning heralded another day on which, just as for the past 14 years, the International Space Station (ISS) slipped yet further behind its timetable. The red lights were the master alarm, and went off less than five minutes before the launch was scheduled; the apparent cause was traced to a brief drop in hydraulic pressure in the fuel tanks. The controllers at Nasa, the US space agency, put the launch of the 88th Space Shuttle flight on hold for a day adding another \$600,000 (£355,000) in fuel and overtime pay to the soaring costs of building a place above the Earth's atmosphere where seven astronauts can live on a semi-permanent basis.

Among those watching the non-launch in the Florida drizzle was Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who told reporters (seeking a story other than "Shuttle stays put"): "This is a visionary idea. This is an investment in the future."

OF

As investments go, it has to be one of the worst places that you could possibly choose to put \$60bn (£35bn). The ISS, principally funded by the US and Russia, will never pay its way; it will never recoup its running costs, let alone those of launching and constructing it. It will be the whitest of white elephants, a fact that will be as galling to belt-tightening Americans as to economically ravaged Russians. Just to rub it in to those on the ground, as it grows towards its finished size - 4,000 square metres, as big as two football fields - it will become one of the brightest objects in the night sky, as luminous as a planet.

If you were beginning to feel smug that it is only the former Cold Warriors who will have to watch their taxes flitting across the heavens, bear in mind that the European Space Agency is putting in \$4bn - or about £10 from each of us. The Japanese, too, have been corralled into putting up some cash, as have the Brazilians and Canadians. By the time the ISS is finished, perhaps in 2003 but almost certainly later, there will be few people in the world who won't be able to look skywards and think how they could have used the money better.

Can we be sure that it won't pay for itself? On its website for the ISS (under the heading Fun Facts), Nasa declares that "every dollar spent on space programs returns at least \$2 in direct and indirect benefits". But Richard Tremayne-Smith, the director of the British National Space Centre (BNSC), makes no bones about it: "It's a matter of international relations and international accord. The only way to justify it is on the possibilities of what it might produce through microgravity [the absence of force experienced in orbit].

"But that idea was dreamt up in the Sixties and Seventies, of manufacturing things in space, taking advantage of the lack of gravity. What's actually happened with all these breakthroughs is that they end up giving new understanding to the process which occurs on Earth, so they redesign the way things are done down here."

Other plans are to install a cheap spectrometer

that will search for antimatter - particles with the same mass, but opposite characteristics, to normal ones like electrons or helium. Others will look at the effects of microgravity on metal alloy production, on cellular deterioration in bones with age, and how to build a laser-cooled atomic clock that will be 10 times more accurate than any built on Earth.

But none of those is going to be a money-spinner. Radical breakthroughs will be few and far between - if indeed there are any. Nasa's search for commercial backers has produced few prepared to put their money where its mouth is; they have learnt that, unless they make rockets or avionics systems, it's more efficient to put their mooey into satellites for phone systems. No company is battering down the door to Nasa demanding to try out a new experiment in space.

\mathbf{BY} CHARLES ARTHUR

The idea of space stations as interplanetary laybys has been popular for decades with science-fiction writers. Think of the semi-completed one in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey, which was like an airport departure lounge where Americans and Russians could briefly meet before heading off to their respective quarters on the Moon. But the reality is that by 2001 we won't have built anything on the Moon, and the present schedule of launches only goes up to July 2000, when the twelfth of 45 assembly flights is due to go up. There will then be a three-strong crew living on board, while the ed to believe its own publicity, instead of Mir space station should be just a memory, having been guided down - one trusts - to crash into the ocean and sink to the depths sometime in 1999. However, we don't need a space station in

order to travel to the Moon, or to Mars. There's nothing we can put there which couldn't more easily be located on our satellite, especially after the discovery earlier this year of water at the Moon's poles, which could (at great cost) be used to power and provide for a permanent community.

The idea of the ISS was first mooted by the then US president Ronald Reagan, in 1984. In retrospect, Reagan promulgated all sorts of daft ideas that later proved wrong or unfeasible, such as "trickledown" taxation (suggesting that tax cuts for the rich would benefit the poor, whom the rich would employ) and the "Star Wars" space defence system, which was suggested almost as a joke by a group of Californian SF writers, yet somehow gained billions in defence research funding despite its obvious impossibility.

The ISS falls into the same category. It was meant to have been built by 1994. But the serial collapses of the Russian economy have delayed that repeatedly, while the impossibility of justifying anything as large as Reagan had in mind has meant that the final ISS is much smaller than was

However, the PR drive (helped along by Nasa. which is the major partner) for the ISS has been enormous. There is a simple reason why: Nasa is once more doing its level best to persuade the US government, and the world, to throw a ton of money into an expensive project that won't pay off but will produce resounding visual images.

When it comes to skilled manipulation of the world's media, few can hold a candle to Nasa. It does have the advantage of its subject matter, which throws up dramatic pictures - the rocky surface of Mars, the columns of interstellar gas millions of light years long pictured by the Hubble space telescope. the Earth's light rising over the sur-

face of the Moon. By winning the race to be first on the Moon, Nasa guaranteed its place in the affections of the American (and by proxy Western) public. But since 1969, more and more administrators have questioned the reasoning behind the growing requests for money. The explosion of a Space Shuttle shortly after lift-off in 1985 threw a sharp light on managerial incompetence at the agency. It had startremembering that it was dealing with engineering systems whose malfunction

could always be deadly. As a result, Nasa began instead to focus on robot missions to other planets and moons, and satellites to observe the Earth. The Nasa administrator Dan Goldin insisted that new space missions should try to aim to be done "better, faster. cheaper". The Mars Surveyor mission of 1997 was a spectacular success in that respect. But it still showed Mars to be a

dead, cold, rocky desert. Continued on page



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Chile awakens

Sir: The judgment of the Law Lords on Pinochet's immunity has been historic for the Chilean people.

Just before Pinochet's miscalculated trip to England, our country had been portrayed as an example of a civilised nation that had left the sins of its past behind. Chile has been marketed to the world as a country with a great entrepreneurial spirit, a strong economy, as a model of transition to a democratic state. Pinochet was transformed from dictator to wise elder statesman. He was presented as a key political figure in this transition process, able to effect agreements between the military, the right, and the governmen

Forgetting the crimes of the dictatorship was central to this peculiar Chilean democracy.

Chile has a new constitution that enshrines the right of the military to intervene if governmental policy does not go its way. It ensures a right of veto to the most conservative sectors of Chilean society by giving 22 per cent of the senate to unelected members. The armed forces have the right to appoint their commanders in-chief; they have 10 per cent of the income from the revenues of Chile's main natural resource, copper, they are protected against criminal investigation by the 1978 Amnesty

In Chile justice has only been symbolic. The crimes of the military regime - torture, hostagetaking, genocide and exile - have been side-stepped in order not to upset the armed forces. Economic triumphalism has been used to show that Chile is a model of stability and economic growth, and all of this thanks to Pinochet. (Figures from the Inter-American Development Bank show that Chile is one of 10 nations with the worst distribution records; most wealth goes to less than 10 per cent of the the population.)

Thanks to Pinochet's trip, the Chilean people have awoken to reality. Pinochet has no immunity beyond Chile and can be brought to trial for his crimes against humanity. The whole structure of the protected Chilean democracy has been shaken by the ruling of the Law Lords.

The return of Pinochet to Chile would mean impunity and would be an obstacle to further progress on Chile's democratic process.

Pinochet should be extradited to Spain. He and those involved in crimes against humanity should be held accountable by the international community. This would be the best way to help Chilean democracy.

S VASQUEZ

Hanover, New Hampshire, USA

Sir: There are some points that I feel I must take up with Maria Vasquez-Aguilar (letter, 2 December).

While I feel Pinochet should stand trial, I wouldn't be happy if this were done in Spain since the Spanish hardly have clean hands in the matter of Chile and other parts of South America.

parts of South America.
For centuries the Spanish
conquistodores, settlers and
Inquisition made life hell for the
indigenous population. Millions
are estimated to have died at
Spanish hands.

There is also the little matter of the Basques, most of whom are not terrorists and whose treatment by the Spanish government is brutal in the extreme.

Does Senora Vasquez-Aquilar really think the Spanish should be the ones to judge another on the matter of crimes against humanity?
PATRICIA ANN WILSON London EN5

Sir. In seeking the wisdom of Solomon from Jack Straw on the case of ex-President Pinochet, we may lose sight of the fact that it is grossly unfair and highly inappropriate for a decision of this kind to be expected of a British Home Secretary at all.

Iome Secretary at all. We need to learn internationally

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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the core lesson of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission that it is necessary to know what has gone on (the killings, torture and human abuse) but that it is not necessary to extract revenge. Because there are no international instruments to bring people to trial for "crimes against humanity" (and we have to rely on random coincidences of travel arrangements and legal procedures) it does not follow that we could not devise some international body, on the model of a grand jury, to ascertain the facts, whether or not there were a judicial body to act on them. This would prevent any abuse of what will surely be the precedent to be set by Jack Straw, whichever way he decides. Without such a body the international community, not to mention the media, will find it hard to distinguish between the awful and the horrendous. But, beyond that, the biblical message seems to be that revenge

message seems to be that revenge does not actually benefit the victims, however legitimate their grievance and profound their grief. Of course, the assumption that "fairness" demands retribution is deep in the human psyche. It is this instinct that we need to grow out of, a colossal task, while making every possible effort to expose the truth of what happened in the worst cases. The Rev PETER BRAIN Secretary for Church and Society The United Reformed Church London WC1

Sir: If Jack Straw were minded to send General Pinochet back to Chile, he should reflect that Britain would then have morally and ethically to agree that Libya has the duty under the Montreal Conventioo of 1971 to try in Libya the two officials suspected of planting the Lockerbie bomb. MARTIN CADMAN Burnham Market, Norfolk

Sir: One useful side-effect of the House of Lords ruling in the Pinochet case is that in future dictators will have to ensure that more mooey is spent building up their own countries' health facilities, so that should they experience back problems in later life, they do not have to risk travelling to countries with unfriendly legal systems.

NIGEL WILKINS London SW7

Europe or America

Sir: The big names of the European Movement are right to emphasise the need for government realism (letter, 30 November). But we need to be at the centre of euro-Europe for more reasons than the economic and financial one, important though that is.

Two other reasons are interconnected: the fundamental changes the US administration, at the behest of the US Senate, is proposing for Nato; end buman rights and the international rule of law, brought suddenly to a head by the unexpected presence of General Pinochet.

In each, Britain must make an unambiguous decision or events will take it for us. "Straddling" is not on offer from either side of the Atlantic.

In agreeing to the enlargement of Nato earlier this year, the allpowerful Senator Helms, Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, imposed certain legally binding conditions on the administration: Nato to defend "our shared interests and values" wheresoever they are threatened; no longer to accept the authority of the UN Security Council or the Charter; and to set a "firebreak" on discussions with Russia. (He also wants to inspect our defence budgets for sufficiency.) All these

provisions the administration is now obediently proposing for insertion in the revised Nato Strategie Concept, to be signed up to next year at the Washington

summit,
So HMG has, now, to decide
whether or not to accept the
proposals, which would hreach our
commitments to the United
Nations and to international law
(and common sense) and which
many of our Nato colleagues in
Europe strongly object to. Which
way will Tony Blair decide?

On Pinochet, the Law Lords have moved the world one precedent closer to an international body of human rights law, of which the International Criminal Court that was agreed by 120 nations in Rome last summer will be the outward and visible tool. Scnator Helms has advised – in effect, ordered – the

Sir: It is not true that my

imprisoned for fighting for

homosexual equality" or that

(report, 2 December). These

fahricated quotes published

in 1995. I do not wish to be a

martyr for one very obvious

to prison for the gay cause.

reason: martyrs end np dead.

Nor do I have any desire to go

Jail is not a pleasant place for

"ambition" is to be

"I want to be a martyr'

claims are based on

does not work well.

At the best of times, the

helps to create jobs."

Tar Dans

Roaring Forties No 5: One of the five free-fall lifeboats on the Nelson platform in the Forties

region of the North Sea. In an emergency the boats are boarded from the stern and plunge from

administration to fight the ICC by

way will Jack Straw decide?

Sir: Officers of the European

Movement endorse a statement

claim to represent the view of

30 November). They do not

print of the statement, which

contained an intriguing line:

currency, if it works well, will

promote trade, investment, and

economic growth. Each of these

One must ask what happens if it

"Membership of the single

British husiness ("Grandees tell

Blair to stop stalling on Europe".

comment, however, on the small

signed by 114 business people who

ELIZABETH YOUNG

London SW1

every means at its disposal. Which

their slipways straight into the sea, surfacing about 50m clear of the platform

IN BRIEF
anyone, least of all an openly
gay man.
PETER TATCHELL

OutRage!, London SW14 Sir: I wonder bow Mr Tatchell would react if a group of Christians were to invade his office, seat themselves upon his desk as he was preparing one of his gracious "outing" invitations, and preach a good old Gospel sermon to him? MAUREEN WARREN Newport, Gwent

structural, political and social

a "one hat fits all" approach to

monetary policy will be fraugh

with difficulties. Yet national

monetary policies will be

variations across Europe suggest

abandoned on 1 January in favour

"weighted average" Euro interest

Equally worrying, the issue of

of a single euro interest rate. A

rate will frequently be wholly

inappropriate for many of the

European tax harmonisation

appears firmly on the ageoda. If

the Chancellor, Gordon Brown,

proposals from Brussels, let him

"Harmonisation" is a huge

Nowhere is this more apparent

threat to business in this country.

than in the labour markets. In the

insists the UK can resist tax

European law forbids him to

reduce VAT on fuel to zero?

explain why, for example,

participants.

Sir: With a German Finance Minister called Lafontaine and his French opposite number Strauss-Kahn, one wonders how much further European union has still to go? TOM CORLETT London HAS UK, non-wage labour costs (taxes, social security contributions and regulation costs) account for 40 per cent of wages. This compares with 82 per cent in Germany, 93 per cent in France and 102 per cent in Italy. This is a major reason why aggregate unemployment in the euro-11 countries has remained stubbornly above 10 per cent in the last five years, whilst UK unemployment has halved to around 5 per cent.

EMU is a dangerous risk for the UK.
PAUL CRAVEN

PAUL CRAVEN Godalming, Surrey

Embassy bombing

Sir: Robert Fisk's article on the two Palestinians jailed for conspiracy to bomb the Israeli embassy in London (26 November) is based on the notion that Reda Moghrabi, who may or may not even exist, may have been an Israeli agent Leading Palestinians have stated that the Israeli authorities were responsible for some of the recent terrorist bombings in Israel. It is depressing to see The Independent giving credence to the absurd notion that the Israelis are responsible for bombing their own embassies

Samar Alami, one of the jailed pair, was a supporter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a group which has murdered many Jews around the world in the name of the Palestinian struggle. These have included attacks on synagogues, kosher restaurants and Jewish community leaders whose only connection to Israel was a shared religion. No wonder Samar Alami "took an interest in Jewish affairs".

The building destroyed in Argentina a week before the London attacks was not the Israell embassy, but a Jewish community centre, and many of the 96 victims of that bomb were Jewish children at kindergarten. The Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was actually blown up in 1992, killing 30 people. That, too, has been attributed in some quarters to an Israeli-planted device. NEVILLE NAGLER Director General The Board of Deputies of British London WC1

Sir: Thank you for the articles by Robert Fisk ("Riddle of man behind Israeli embassy bomb", "The bomber who never was", 26 November), pointing out the many riddles about who was behind the homb in the Israeli embassy in London in 1994.

The fact that the Israeli embassy security video cameras were apparently not working on the day of the explosion is strange. The well-publicised revelations

by the former M16 employee David Shayler included one stating that M15 was in receipt of enough information about the embassy bombings to have prevented them. Now, however, the Crown Prosecution Service is applying for Public Interest Immunity hearings which will withhold this information from Samar Alami and Jawad Botmi, the two convicted of conspiring to cause explosions and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, and also from their lawyers.

Justice demands that all this information should be released without further delay. If the British Government and judicial system refuse this, Ms Alami and Mr Botmi, who have always protested their innocence, are being deprived of potentially crucial grounds for their appeal.

JEAN WADGE

Cuffley,
Hertfordshire

Blair 'climbdown'?

Sir. When a government acts in a heavy-handed and dictatorial manner it is rightly criticised. Why then, when a government acts in an adult manner by compromising on, say, House of Lords reform, does the media hrand it as a U-turn or an "embarrassing climbown" ("Hague sacks Cranborne in row over Lords", 3 December)? If we want grown-up politics in this country the media has to help by reporting in a grown-up way. CHRIS CLARK

Sir: Tom Marshall detter, 25
November) says that it is "patent rubbish" to declare that the existence of a non-hereditary head of state renders a country democratic. Quite so, but he then goes on to say that, as everyone in Britain has a vote, that makes it a democracy.

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Universal suffrage may be a prerequisite of democracy, but it is no guarantee of enfranchisement, without which any "democracy" is a sham. Everyone in the former Soviet Union had the vote. GEOFF PEARSON London E3

Sir. The arcane "Ruritanian" titles of the Lords should indeed be dropped in the reform process detter 3 December).

If the Cranborne plan succeeds,
Continuing Hereditary UpperHouse MPs would be Chumps.
Their former colleagues, being disenfranchised upper-house MPs, would of course be Dumps. Lifepeers would be Lumps. Blair's appointees would be Bumps.

If Cranborne's deal fails, every member of the reformed upper house would simply be a Rump. TOM SAUL London SE26

Scots out in the cold.

Sir: In arguing the economic case for Scottish independence, Hamish McRae appears to assume Scottish membership of the European Union ("Scotland can pay its own way". 1 December), with all the access to the buge EU markets that this includes.

But a newly independent Scotland would have to apply to join and he accepted by the Council of Ministers. Would Spain, conscious of separatist voices among Basques and Catalans, vote to reward separatist Scots in this way? Would France consider that to do so was sending the right message to Corsica? Germany now includes the Kingdom of Bavaria, hut what nationalist ideas might take root if secession was shown to be an easy matter of separate membership of the club? Italy is . already struggling to keep hold of Tuscany. Belgians might example would show to Walloons and Flemings.

Has any Scottish nationalist asked the present British Prime Minister, or other Cabinet members, whether they would be minded to vote for the inclusion of a newly second Scotland in the EU?

It could be awfully cold out

there. PETER GRESHAM London, W14

Sir. Your leading article of 30
November suggests that we should rejoice at the prospects of Quebecois and Scottish separatism. In the same edition, a news report informs us that many of Quebec's English-speakers have "upped and left in despair". The lesson is that separatist nationalism can bring with it charvinism and internal strife. In this respect, Scotland should take Quebec not as an example but as a warning. PETER A RUSSELL. Glasgow

Oscar award

Sir: Given Tom Lubbock's views on the new sculpture to Oscar Wilde "It's got to go", I December) I wonder what Wilde himself would have said about it? HELEN HARAN St Albans, Hertfordshire

We will make a melodrama out of a crisis

A MOST extraordinary case is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a motorist is suing Directory Inquiries for damages. He claims that because they gave him the wrong information, his car was ruined beyond repair. Directory Inquiries have never been successfully sued before, so if they lose this case it will make legal history.

To give you some idea of the issues involved, I am hringing you part of yesterday's proceedings.

Counsel: Now, you are bringing this action against Directory Inquiries, are you not?

Plaintiff: I certainly am.

Connsel: What is your name, please?
Plaintiff: My name is James Witherspoon of 27 The Avenue, Broadport, I am 43 years old, and married

with two children, and the registration number of my green fourdoor Nissan is... Counsel: Do you always give this needless data when asked for your

Plaintiff: I do, yes. As a business traveller I do a lot of signing into hotels, and I find that they usually want to know everything.

Counsel: I see. And on 17 July were you driving down from London to Malvern?

Plaintiff: Yes, I was. I was going to a very important business meeting. Counsel: How important? Plaintiff: All business meetings are very important. Counsel: But what if a meeting is not really very important?

Plaintiff: Then we call it something else.
Counsel: Like what?

Plaintiff: Like lunch. Or touching base.

Counsel: I see. So there you are, driving from London to Malvern... Plaintiff: And my car breaks down near Cirencester. Counsel: Did you attempt to mend

Plaintiff: No, I did not. It would invalidate the insurance. I am a member of the RAC so I determined to ring them for aid.

Counsel: Had you been a member of the RAC for long?

Plaintiff: Long and often. I joined the RAC in 1988. I joined again in

1990, and twice in 1992.

Counsel: Why did you keep joining the RAC? Plaintiff: Because I am soft-hearted and could never resist the appeal of the RAC men at motorway service areas. They looked so cold



KINGTON
'I could never resist the appeal of RAC men at motorway service areas.

I joined four times in all'

and unhappy standing there, that I joined four times in all. Took out life memberships every time, too.

Counsel: I see. And on this occasion did you ring the RAC of which you were such a multi-serving member?

Plaintiff: Unfortunately, I had left all my documents at home, so I didn't have their telephone number. I rang Directory Inquiries on my mohile and asked them for the RAC number. They gave it to me and then I rang the number I had been given. They answered, and I asked them to come to my aid. They wanted to know if I was a member I said I was.

Counsel: What happened next?
Plaintiff: I gave my position and
they said they would do their best.
About 40 minutes later a van arrived and five people got out.
Counsel: Five people? That seems
rather a lot to mend a car...
Plaintiff: That's what I said. I said

that five seemed a lot to mend a car.
They said that only one of them was
any good at mending a car. He started looking in the bonnet.
Counsel: What did the others do?

Plaintiff: They put on make-up, changed costumes and performed an extract from Shakespeare's The Tempest.
Counsel: Isn't that an unusual

thing for garage mechanics to do?
Plaintiff: Yes, but it turned out they
weren't garage mechanics. Upon
questioning, they turned out to be
from the Royal Shakespeare Company.
Counsel: Why on earth...?

Counsel: Why on earth...?

Plaintiff: Because the idiots at
Directory Inquiries had thought
that when I asked for the number
of the RAC, I was asking for the
RSC! The do sound very alike, admittedly...

Counsel: Let me get this straight. You dialled the RSC instead of the RAC and asked them to help you get your car started?
Plaintiff: Yes.

Counsel: And they came?
Plaintiff: Yes.
Counsel: Why do you suppose a
company whose main ability is the

company whose main skill is the atrical would offer help to a motorist with engine trouble? Plaintiff: My guess is that the Royal Sbakespeare Company has been having a lean season and would do anything to sell tickets. So they came to do

they came to do my car.
Counsel: And did they mend it?
Plaintiff: No. But they sold me four tickets for their new C S Lewis production.

More of this fascinating case soon, I hope...

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*THE INDEPENDENT

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An uncommon row that highlights Mr Hague's failings

AT THREE minutes past three nn Wednesday afternoon, Tony Blair was surprised and on the defensive, the massed benches of New Labour behind him silent and disbelieving at the betrayal of the core manifesto promise to expel the hereditary peers from parliament.

Five minutes later, however, roles were reversed, as it became clear that William Hague was rejecting the deal negotiated by the Conservative leader in the House of Lords. As theatre, it was gripping, although it took a little longer to work out that it was Mr Hague whn was the principal loser from the exchange. It was not until he failed to find an alternative leader of the Tories in the Lords whn agreed with him that he began to look seriously foolish.

He then had to explain why he had sacked Lord Cranborne and replaced him with Lord Strathclyde, who also supports the Cranborne-Blair deal. So the House of Lords will vote for the compromise, in which the numbers of hereditaries will be cut by nine-tenths, and Mr Hague will be powerless to stop it. Which means, in turn, that the Tory leader has managed to engineer a split between the Tories in the Commons and the Lords by being more forceful in defence of the hereditaries than they themselves.

Mr Hague is now in a very difficult position. Although the instant commentaries held that his leadership is not in question, the truth is that, of course, it is. In many ways, this is unfair: Mr Hague is a superb performer in the Commons: bright, quick-witted and with a deadly sense of humour, a combination of Harold Wilson and John Smith.

To nn avail, however. The non-political majority of the electorate simply have no time for him. He fails utterly to "come across" on television, which is as serious a failing as anything else in modern politics. This is especially apparent by contrast with Mr Blair, whose success as a mass communicator eclipses almost all else. More than that, though, Mr Hague now appears incompetent: to lose so many of his Lords frontbenchers emphasises that. His judgement on Lords reform has been wrong throughout, saved only by the Government's stubborn defence of the closed-list system of proportional representation. It is hard now to see how he can last until the next election.

But Mr Blair is fortunate that Mr Hague's ignominy has eclipsed his own less-than-edifying backstairs dealings. There is a good argument for cutting the deal with Lord Cranborne, which is that it will short-cut months of constitutional trench warfare - trench ping-pong, at least. If that will unblock the log jam of the legislative programme. it might allow the Government to get through all sorts of Bills it should never have left out of the Queen's Speech, such as on Freedom of Information, a Food Standards Agency and a national rail authority.

But the deal contradicts Mr Biair's presentation of him-



self as a straight arrow. In public, he described the survival of the hereditaries as "a democratic monstrosity". while in private he was hatching a plot to keep some of them. This is not "saying what we mean and meaning what we say" because, while this deal might make eventual abolition easier, we doubt it will make it quicker. Margaret Jay said the deal meant "we'll probably get them all nut by the time of the geoeral election". Neither Labour's manifesto nor last week's Queen's Speech said anything about "probably".

Now that Mr Blair's two-stage reform of the Lords has developed a stage 1a and a stage 1b, he urgently needs to respond to the charge that he is creating a House of Cronies by spelling out a system by which most life peers would be appointed by an independent body. And he needs to accelerate the Royal Commission so that a system of democratic election of at least half the members of the Upper House can be agreed well before the next election.

Pause to wonder at these modern miracles

THE SORT of thing that was a hig story 2,000 years ago is now a medical commonplace. Today we report a hreakthrough in the cure of the most common form of blindness. Early results from trials suggest that there is hope for those suffering macular degeneration, a wearing-out of the retina which affects many people over the age of 60. Yesterday we reported the analysis of likely trends in medicine in the next 50 years, from the publishers of the British Medical Journal. They include artificial wombs, the transplant of pigs' nerve cells to treat Parkinson's disease, and electronic chips implanted in the body.

The changes in medical technology over the past 50 years - since the founding of the National Health Service - have been astonishing enough. Hip replacement is now

a routine operation. The same applies to heart bypass. The development of anti-depressants has transformed the quality of life for thnusands. Advances in scanning and microsurgery have reduced the need for invasive treatment. IVF is now considered a right of infertile couples.

Of course, the pace of these developments puts great pressure on the funding of the NHS, and poses serious ethical challenges of prinritising and rationing. So far we have muddled through - in terms of both resources and ethics - although the new technology of genetic manipulation does, in fact, take us far beyond the dilemmas of today, into a genuinely brave new world. But surely the important point is to retain some of the sense of wonder that attended biblical miracles. Research scientists, the medical profession, the drugs companies and the NHS have served us outstandingly well in the past half-century, and not all of them have received much thanks.

Nowadays, if someone in a white coat told us "take up thy bed and walk", we should be inclined to believe them.

Please applaud the first act of a dazzling Tory pantomime

EVERY NOW and again the Conservatives put on an entertainment at Westminster that outstrins any competition in London's nearby theatres: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the party which brought you the comic double act of Ken Clarke and John Redwood in last year's leadership contest, the party that forced a sitting prime minister to resign as leader of his party, so that he could be re-elected now brings you a special Christmas panto starring our latest leader, who sacks a colleague for negotiating a deal which the leader himself supports."

These performances are symptoms of a wider malaise: the politicians who would be less inclined to perform more his party will delight us with like members of a travelling circus if they were operating in more conducive political circumstancea. William Hague has not taken leave of his political senses. Nor had John Major when he remained prime minister, but stood down as party leader. Even Clarke and Redwood were acting rationally. It was the political context that was irrational.

So sure-footed before becoming leader, Hague has been damaged by his party's lack of any coherent direction. Although this latest crisis is not directly related to Europe, there is a clear connection. Major was pilloried for being too flexible and indecisive. Hague has responded by being a "tough" leader. He talks about the "smack of firm leadership", usually when a section of his party is in near-

Clearly Lord Cranborne demon-

undertaking some freelance negotiations over Lords reform. But Hague should not have sacked him without making sure that he could rely on the support of other senior peers. Obviously, such a consideration was secondary to the need for an assertion of leadership. "Discipline" was required.

Strong leadership comes only when a leader is genuinely strong and his party is subservient. As leader of the opposition Tony Blair could do whatever he wanted, because his party would let him. Hague is not in such a privileged position, and the more be pretends to use the "smack of firm leadership" in the coming years, the further pantomimes. His current position demands nimble footwork and concinatory gestures rather than confrontational grandstanding. He needs to be more like Harold Wilson than Margaret Thatcher

But the malaise is not just to do with tactics. The vacuum in policy has been the other reason why normally shrewd tacticians have so readily scored own goals. Again, this is not the fault entirely of the circus performers. The state of the party has demanded obscurity. Major's "wait and see" policy on the euro was devised to keep his party united, rather than out of any conviction on his part (he would have preferred to have ruled out early entry into the single currency). Clarke and Redwood openiy disagreed, and tried to make a virtue out of their collective incoherence.

hereditary peer could possess, by wants to do with the hereditary peers. how membership of the Lords might the phase one reform. This will have



STEVE RICHARDS

There are storms ahead for Labour over Lords reform but Tory ineptitude makes the journey less daunting

Last February Hague made a clever speech on constitutional reform which combined high principle with political cunning. Much of it was clear. He accepted the principle of a London mayor, openly changing the party's policy. In the light of the referendum, he accepted, too, the introduction of a Scottish parliament. Quite rightly he raised the implications for England of such a policy, a genninely strong card for the Tories. But then he moved on to the House of Lords and started playing a dangerous political game.

He began by hinting that the Conservatives would no longer support hereditary peers:

"The balance of power in society In this case Hague did not dare to has changed. Conservatives are

be changed, too, and whether the a Pythonesque dimension to it, as well: hereditary principle is the right one to employ when choosing members for the House."

inheritance and the way families pass down values and duties from nne generation to the next, Conservatives are not surprised that hereditary peers, no longer required or able to represent the landed and property interest, nevertheless make a valuable contribution to the provision of this

remarkable service. Hague was trying to be too clever by half. Opposing hereditary peers would have split his party, but appearing to support them wholeheartedly would not exactly make the new Tory leader seem "modern". So he has been functioning on that dangerous terrain where tactics become all that matters.

In such circumstances, political antennae very easily become blunted and Hague has fallen into a trap which both Neil Kinnock and Tony Blair carefully avoided in opposition. Both Kinnock and Blair caused internal conflict over issues that made them more popular - attacking Militant and removing Clause Four. Hague has contrived to be in the bizarre position of defending bereditary peers, while taking on his own

hereditary peers in the process. This is a performance with a sequel and it is one where the Government, too, will face dangers. Its concession strated an arrogance which only a make his mind up on what he really therefore open to suggestions about takes some of the radical zing out of The writer is political editor of the

the Abolition of the Hereditary Peers (except for 98 of them) Bill. A historic reform, being carried out increment-So did that mean that Hague was ally, becomes a little more increreceptive to reform? Well, not exactly, mental. Nor do I detect a clear sense no: "Understanding the value of of timing. Baroness Jay seemed to suggest in interviews that, now, phase two reform could be implemented this side of the election. Other senior ministers consider this to be unlikely. Whatever the precise arrangements, the phase two reform moves closer into view, and with it come all the old

thorny issues. Ministers predict that the powers of a fully reformed upper chamber will remain as they are. This will not satisfy more ardent reformers who argue that a democratic second chamber should be given more responsibilities. But some Labour MPs will be wary of a chamber acquiring any more legit-

imacy, even if it gets no more powers. There are storms ahead for the Government over Lords reform, but Tory ineptitude now makes the journey less daunting. For although there are doubts in government circles about tactics and outcome, the Conservatives have obliged once again by flaunting their own divisions.

With eccentric peers lining up on College Green yesterday afternoon, invoking Wellington and Palmerston to explain their resignations, it has been the Tories' most dazzling performance yet. Messrs Hague and Cranborne should step forward and take a bow.

New Statesman

ion or doubts about Starr's

case keep the House from vot-

ing to impeach, then it ought to

get on with the business of cen-

suring the Presideot. The

growing risk is that Republi-

cans will split over censure and

Clinton's abuses of his office IF CONCERN about public opin-

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I ceased to be a guardsman 40 years ago. Mr Hague can talk about discipline as long as he likes." Lord Onslow, Conservative peer

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Perfect behaviour is born of complete indifference." Cesare Panese Italian author



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to drop any consideration of impeachment articles on the obstruction of justice allegations that Mr Starr sent to Congress, they must attempt to clarify ambiguities in the factual record that he compiled. The grave impact of perjury on the judicial system is certainly a fair point for Republicans to make in the context of this inquiry, but it is no substitute for the establishment of the rigorous factual record that is nec-

UNLESS REPUBLICANS mean essary to debate whether a national election should be overturned by impeaching a president The Washington Post

> IT APPEARS likely that the full House will vote, by a slim majority, to impeach the President on one count of perjury. The Senate will then take the House's action under advisement. And there, the issue will die. Throwing Clinton out of office was never really an option.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The US press comments on developments in the Bill Clinton impeachment inquiry

never there. A House vote of him through history. impeachment for perjury Boston Globe would nevertheless stand as an ing. It is a rebuke that Clinton capable of coming to grips with

The votes in the Senate were fully deserves. It would haunt

rebuke for conduct unbecom- THE DEMOCRATS seem in-

and the fact that there is an impeachment panel up and running. Republicans have begun to sound like people who've concluded they will face their duty irrespective of polls or politics. That duty should include a commitment to reauthorize the Hyde committee's impeachment mandate if the Clinton factions continue to try to hulldoze this impeachment inquiry toward the cliff. Wall Street Journal

impeachment, and Clinton will stroll away scot-free. That would be the worst outcome. That's why Republicans need to get back on track, and, at last, let themselves be counted. Chicago Daily Herald

www.theaa.co.uk

PANDORA

AS IF strife in the Lords were not enough for beleaguered Tory leader William Hague, his Commons troops don't seem to be falling into line either. At this week's Foreign Affairs Select Committee, where the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, was the witness, Pandora is told that none of the Conservative members turned up. In a week when Europe has been a recurring issue (only knocked off the beadlines by Hague's sacking of Lord Cranborne), the meeting of the Committee was surely as good an opportunity as any to get Cook wriggling? Pandora contacted the Tories on the Committee - Virginia Bottomley, Sir Peter Emery, Sir John Stanley and David Wilshire - to check their excuses. Emery was on parliamentary business in Oslo, Bottomley was attending a meeting at the British Council, where she is vice-chair. As for Wilshire and Stanley, neither have yet returned our calls. Perhaps to avoid further lapses in opposition, William Hague sbould buy his MPs some diaries this Christmas.

LIZ HURLEY recently revealed some items she would like to find in ber own Christmas stocking this year (See Pandora, 30 November). Now the perfect gift idea has arrived. IEG, an American company, is producing a series of videos eotitled Ser Lives of the Stars. In it, reports the New York Post, lookalikes of Miehael Jordan, Leonardo Di Caprio, Jerry Seinfeld and Hugh Grant will reenact scenes described by women who claim to have had sexual encounters with them. Divine Brown, the Hollywood prostitute caoght with Grant, will play a starring role. Happy viewing, Liz.

PANDORA HAS been contacted by a reader who claims to have been a fellow pupil of The Sunday Times' wunderkind Rupert Steiner. Readers will remember that Steiner confessed that his "first break" into journalism came from selling stories about his schoolmates to the designed to promote his oew book My First Break: How Entrepreneurs Get Started, Our

reader is unlikely to be turning up to the launch of Steiner's book, be writes: "I had the misfortune to be one of the pupils you refer to in your article about Rupert Steiner... Selling stories about your school mates for money is about the lowest thing you can do. This guy is a total [expletive deleted] who would stop at

nothing."

YESTERDAYS PUBLICATION of the **Greater London Authority** Bill reminds Pandora that Tony Banks, one of the frontrumers for the job it will create - that of London Mayor - still hasn't called to say how pleased or displeased he is with a new volume listing his witticisms. Today's excerpt from lain Dale's The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks has our hero reflecting on the Thatcher government's abolition of the Greater London Council in 1986: "Abolition was an act of political malice, carried out by probably the most vindictive, dogmatic, bigoted, authoritarian Prime Minister that this country has had to suffer since the days of the Duke of Wellington - linked together through 150 years only by their own personal arrogance. It is not my intention to relight the old hattles because I cheer myself up with the old saying: 'Don't get mad, get

US TALK-SHOW bost and actress Rosie O'Donnell can now add her name to the list of Miami's celebrity inhabitants, having bought Madonna's mansioo for \$6m oo a little pre-Christmas sbopping spree. Madonna was unhappy there because sbe appareotly felt that she and her baby, Lourdes, were being treated like a tourist attraction. Wheo O'Donnell was asked by reporters at the New York Daily News if she felt the same, she replied: "Not at all. People react differently to me. I go out shopping."

ACTRESS WHOOPI Goldberg (pictured) had guests at a New York charity dinner in stitches this week. At the dinner the irrepressible star told an amazed aodience that Hillary Clinton had inadvertently received an invitation to the event that ended with the words, "you better be there, bitch". Luckily the First Lady was au fait with Goldberg's way, "I just thought that it was Whoopi



Don't let your children go to Narnia

I'M CERTAINLY not in favour of banning or burning books, but there are a few books in this world which would make even the most fervent liberal twitch for a box of matches. For me, it is not the 120 Days of Sodom or Mein Kompf that marks the outer boundaries of acceptability, but something infinitely more poisonous and corrupting.

If I were going to lock away a single thing in the private cabinets of the British Library, have a work of literature removed from the shelves of bookshops and schools everywhere, it would have to be something widely thought of as innocuous, and perhaps even beneficial ft looks like a fairy story about some nicely behaved children, a wicked witch or two and some talking animals, but it is the sheerest poison. Let us drop C S Lewis and his ghastly, priggish, half-witted, money-making drivel about Narnia down the nearest deep hole, as soon as is conveniently possible.

In fact, I'd more or less assumed that these frightful books had stooped being read years ago. It turns out that this year marks Lewis's centenary and, to mark it.



HENSHER

CS Lewis's books are racist and misogynist but their worst crime is a lack of imagination

the Royal Shakespeare Company no less, is putting on what promises to be a spectacular stage production of the first book in the Narnia series, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Spectacular in setting, I presume, since nothing on earth could make the products of Lewis's mind intellectually spectacular, or even interesting. They are revoltingly mean-minded books, written

to corrupt the minds of the young with allegory, smugly denouncing anything that differs in the slightest respect from Lewis's creed of cleanliving, muscular Christianity, pipesmoking, misogyny, racism, and the most vulgar snobbery. I think I knew there was some-

thing wrong with the books when I read them as a child. I couldn't have identified their blunt allegory (the Creation in The Magician's Nephew, the Crucifizion and Resurrection in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Armageddon in The Last Battle) but I knew that here were some books with some fairly unhealthy designs on me as a read-er. All that guff about Deep Magic and Deeper Magic when that lioo comes back from the dead struck me as cheating with the plot, and still makes oo sense unless you import great loads of Christian doctrine into it. To be honest, I'm still pretty vague about a lot of Christian doctrine, which is probably why great swaths of the series make absolutely no sense to me at all. What on earth is The Last Battle going on about, with that donkey and Plato and the poor girl who gets sent to bell for wearing nylons and lipstick? What is its doctrinaire bullying doing in a book for children, and why did people ever think of it as appropriate reading for the under-10s?

The books embody some pretty unpleasant social attitudes. The loathing of vegetarians, socialism, anti-smoking and "cleverness" is a recurrent theme; the racism is extreme, even by the standards of the time (you would probably gather from A Horse and His Boy and The Last Battle that Islam was some kind of Satanie cult). You just know that if Lewis were alive today, he would be writing idiotic, sniggering articles about "political correctoess" for The Daily Telegraph. But I think the most corrupting feature of it all is the poverty of the imagination. It is often thought that these books are richly imaginative pieces of work. They are not: they are thin. doctrinaire tracts of social and religious instruction, which allow no dissent, and which embody only the bullying voice of their author.

Other books of the time look fairly dubious, if judged by cootemporary standards. It's easy to have problems with the racial attitudes of The Lord of the Rings, with those heroic, tall, blond Elves talking Weish, and the ghastly dark, squat, hairy little Orcs with their Turkish consonants. But, to some extent, Tolkieo is rescued by the variety of his imagination, and by a vision which, if it is not rich or profound, is at least intricately patterned and satisfying. Those Narnia books, instead, are second-band, commonplace, and allegorical in the most boring way. They serve as vehicles for a narrow-minded man's pet obsessions, and, with their secondhand props of fauns and centaurs, can only make a child think that literature is aomething that can

oever be surprising. Doo't give your childree CS Lewis to read; oot the Narnia books, not the Screwtope Letters, not that appalling Is God an Astronaut? science fiction. It looks like rich fantasy, but it is the product of a mean, narrow little mind, burrowing into their ideas and poob-poohing them. Give them anything else - Last Exit to Brooklyn, a bottle of vodka, a phial of prussic acid, even Winnie the Pooh - but keep them away from The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

Mr Blunkett's failure to stop the teaching brain drain

TEACHERS ARE voting with their feet. Prospective teachers are voting with their feet, too. As with many in the public sector, teachers feel they are drowning in paper work and bureaucracy simply to prove that they are doing their job. What, they ask is the point? Something has to change. Labour's Green Paper, out yes-

terday, is meant to do just that. For the first time, a government has realised that teachers are the key to the education revolotion and that, perhaps, simply nagging them will not help. More radically still, Labour has identified that there is a recruitment crisis in teaching, and that to solve it money must come into the equation. But here comes the rub. There is not enough money to pay for the badly needed across-theboard rise.

The Green Paper is a creative attempt to get around this problem under the guise of modernising the profession. It includes both performance related pay, and fast-tracking selected new recruits. The success of the measures will, to a large extent, depend on the oumbers to wbom they apply and whether enough believe it could be them.

Early indications are that Labour does intend performance related pay to apply to the majority of the profession. The same cannot be said of the other initiatives. Labour has already announced that maths and scieoce teachers are to get £5,000 more on starting than their arts con-temporaries. The small but elite group of super teachers, who can earn up to £40,000, are one term old. David Blunkett has pre-empted objections by coming out fighting. "I don't know a union worth its salt that would call its members out against a new pay award," he has warned. Characterising it as a union battle may enhance Blunkett's reputation



BETHAN MARSHALL

No one wants to be part of a profession where you are not trusted to do your job

as a moderniser, but the issues at stake are not that simple. Of course, part of the problem is the old union adage that everyone should receive the same wage for the same job. But this is oot just obstructive Old Labour talk, it is an issue identified by some of the more progressive thinkers in the private sector.

While Blunkett cites industry for

performance related pay many companies have turned their backs on it because they are focussing more attention oo the employees' morale and workplace dynamics. The Government might be wise to do the same. Singling out individuals for special treatment is seen as counterproductive to the team spirit; dependence on the criteria for deciding who is to be rewarded, cramps initiative. While market forces do play their part, a similar point could be made about paying scieoce graduates a third more oo starting than arts graduates. It is a major disincentive to those hard-pressed teachers who believe their contribution to be less valued. Many of the arts PGCE students at King's College, tory, will be inspected by Ofsted). A

London, where I work, bitterly resent it. We cannot afford to be complacent about recruitment in this area either. English places are barely filled by the number of applicants.

Nor does the comparison with the civil service for fast tracking work that nestly. Not only are the overwhelming majority of teachers graduates anyway, a first class degree is not a necessary indicator of teaching ability. The current system of rapidly promoting talented, well qualified teachers seems more equitable. It just needs to be better paid. In addition, schools, particularly primary schools, are small institutions, often with only a dozen teachers. A sense of all being in it together is importhe teachers.

Paper has singularly failed to adthan just money, although this is important. What really lies at the beart of the problem, is something that bedevils the public sector in general the balance between trust and accountability. Traditionally this has set the interests of the public and those involved in education in opposition. The Tories began it when they intro-

duced a tranche of indicators by which those in the public sector might be assessed. In the case of schools, these included a national curriculum, a battery of tests which could be converted into league tables, and Ofsted. With its passion for numerical indicators, Labour does not appear set to buck this trend.

Indeed, it has already added base line testing; national and local target setting of exam results at 11 and 16; and the highly prescriptive literacy hour, to be followed next year by the numeracy hour (both of which, although in theory non statu-



tant to the ethos and the morale of Time to let teachers cootribute to education

It is this that Labour's Green national curriculum for teacher constructively; that will enhance introduced into higher education. The much vaunted value added tables, which would, in theory, have sbown that despite poor results some schools were doing a good job, have failed to materialise, but are promised for next year. All of these will stay.

Yet the brain drain from the professioo is sufficient evideoce that a radical re-think of public sector accountability will have to be made if we are to continue to raise standards within state education. For no one wants to be part of a profession where you are oot trusted to do your job and need to be told what to do. The elusive promise that you, too, might be a super teacher, or find a meagre bonus in your pay packet will be insufficient to counter the clearer message that without government guidelines teachers are not quite up

to the job. We need to find measures which teachers feel they can contribute to London

training, begun by the Tories, bas their own professional life rather dress. The recruitment crisis and been implemented by Labour-the than simply be a check to see if they teacher morale are about more first time such legislation has been are doing their job. Too often, arguments about accountability have looked to the lowest common denominator to justify a system of punitive monitoring. Above all, we must allow those who are being beld accountable to benefit from the system which is holding them to account. In case we forget, it is worth bear-ing in mind that it is not only teachers who might be affected by this Green Paper. Pareots may quite justifiably demur. What parent would not want their child to be taught by those that the system had identified as better than others? Why settle for the average when you could have the best" Perhaps trying to resolve that thorny little problem might encourage Labour to devise a creative solution that benefits everyooe involved in education. Let's be genuinely progressive. Bethun Marshall is lecturer of

English education at King's College,

PRIENDS SHOULD

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Peace will be found in Ulster IN THE past few months, I've often been asked what lessons Northern Ireland holds for other

I begin with caution. Each buman being is unique, as is each society. It follows logically, then, that no two conflicts are the same. Much as we would like it, there is no magic formula which, ooce discovered. can be used to end all conflicts. But there are certain prin-

conflicts. I'll try to answer that

ciples which arise out of my experience in Northern Ireland that I believe are universal First, I believe there's no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. They're creat-ed and sustained by human be-

ings. They can be ended by burnan beings. No matter how ancient the conflict, no matter bow hateful, no matter bow hurtful, peace can prevail. When I arrived in Northern Ireland I found, to my dismay, a widespread feeling of pessimism among the public and the political leaders. It's a small, well informed society,

where I quickly became well

known Every day people

They always began with kind words: "Thank you, Senator."
"God bless you." "We appreciate what you're trying to do." But they always ended in despair. "You're wasting your time." "This conflict can't be ended." "We've been killing each other for centuries and we're doomed to go on killing each other for ever."

As best I could, I worked to reverse such attitudes. This is the special responsibility of political leaders, from whom many in the public take their cue. Leaders must lead. And one way is to create an sttitude of success, the belief that problems can be solved, that things can be better. Not in a foolish or unrealistic way, but in a way that creates hope and con-

fidence among the people.

A second need is for a clear and determined policy not to yield to the men of violence. Over and over, they tried to destroy the peace process in Northern Ireland; at times they oearly succeeded.

Seeking an end to conflict is not for the timid or the teotative. It takes courage, perseverance and steady nerves in would stop me on the street, in the face of violence. I believe it the airport, in a restaurant, a mistake to say in advance uine willingness to understand



PODIUM GEORGE MITCHELL

The Richard Dimbleby Lecture, given by the former chairman of the Northern Ireland

peace talks

that if acts of violence occur, the negotiations will stop. That's an invitation to those who use violence to destroy the peace process, and it transfers control of the agenda from the peaceful majority to the violent

A third need is a willingness to compromise. Peace and political stability cannot be achieved in sharply divided societies unless there is a genthe other point of view and to enter into principled compromise. That is easy to say, but very hard to do, because it requires of political leaders that they take risks for peace. I know it can be done, be-

cause I saw it at first hand in Northern Ireland. Men and women, some of whom had never before met, never before spoken, who had spent their entire lives in conflict, came together in an agreement for peace. Admittedly, it was long and difficult. But it did happen. A fourtb principle is to

recognise that the implementation of agreements is as difficult, and as important, as reaching them. That should be self-evident. But often, just etting an agreement is so difficult that the natural tendency is to celebrate, then go bome and relax. But, as we are now seeing in Northern Ireland, in the Middle East, in the Balkans, getting it done is often harder than agreeing to do it.

Once again, patience and perseverance are necessary. It is especially important that our citizens, British and American, both busy at home and all across the world, not be dis- and I bope they can tracted, or be made complacent

by the good feeling created by a highly publicised agreement. If a conflict is important enough to get involved in, it must be seen through, all the way to a fair and successful

conclusion. There is uneasiness among some about the continuing release of prisoners. There will be further controversy when reports are received from the independent commission on policing and the criminal justice system. Policing is especially sensitive. Chris Patten and his colleagues oo that commission have an important

and difficult task. It will take extraordinary determination and commitment to get safely through all of these problems. But I believe it can be done, and will be done. It would be an immense tragedy were the process to fail now. The people of Northern Ireland are sick of war They're sick of ao many funerals, especially those involving the small white coffins of children, prematurely laid into the rolling green fields of their beautiful countryside.

They want peace.

لمكذا من الاعل

Drawing false conclusions



ANN TRENEMAN

Must we react to all news about men or women as if it were attached to a moral barometer?

I HAVE long believed that listening to Radio 4's Today programme is bad for my bealth. I cannot tell you the number of times I have gone to sleep thinking that I was OK, only to be woken up by a perfect stranger telling me otherwise.

The reason? Well, in the worst cases it is the fact that I am a woman. This is depressing, because there is no real cure.

The list of worrying things is long. and growing. I can think of alcohol, smoking, chocolate, red meat, white meat, pink meat, eggs, butter, coffee and, oh yes, bousework. But what makes a story even better is if there is a gender angle. So, not just a chocolate story, but a chocolate story that pertains specially to women. It may be 1998 but we still cannot get over the fact that men and women react differently to certain things, be they a Toblerone bar, a toilet that needs cleaning or a

Sometimes such stories do little more than entertain. But this week we have had one of those that frighten instead. This was the study showing that women are more by than men to develop the most dangerous form of lung cancer. Evidently, nearly twice as many women as men under 65 are diagnosed with small-cell lung cancer, and this is inoperable in seven out of 10 cases. We know what that

means. That means death. What is a woman to make of this? Why is this the case? "The short answer is, we don't know. There are theories," says a spokesman for the group that conducted the study the **British Thoracic Society. Possible** gasons include genetic susceptito smoke (low tar and "lite") and the we take shorter, sharper intakes, probably in a desperate attempt to get some nicotine and tar out of those lite brands. "Or," be says, "it could be any combination or

The spokesman said that it was intellectually interesting to want to know why, but it missed the main point. Which is? "Worryingly, stacking in teenage girls is on the increase," said Dr Mike Pearson of the Society. "It is vitally important that young women know the greater



Marlene Dietrich in the days when a woman smnking a cigarette - nnce the preserve of men - was considered to be sexy, not deadly

risks they are running by smoking. We must prevent them from becoming the lung-cancer victims of the future

Now, I am not going to try to argue that we need more lungcancer victims. I liked smoking, but can see that it wasn't the smartest thing to take up at the age of 16. I wouldn't want my 16-year-old daughter, or anyone else's for that matter to start smoking now. In fact, I wouldn't want any 16-year-old boy to smoke, either. The reason? Because lung cancer is a major of death for men and was responsible for the deaths of 24,000 men in 1994. And that is twice as many as in women. So, yes, we should take note of this study, but by no means is it the whole picture. And I don't believe that it will scare

one girl into not smoking. If this sounds familiar, that's because it is. Earlier this year, I had been woken to discover that women who drink three glasses of wine per day are 41 per cent more likely to contract breast cancer than those who are teetotal. You can imagine

the relief to discover that the risk starts to drop again if you drink seven glasses a day. So is it better to be drunk all the time, or to be only slightly drunk but at risk of breast cancer? It is the kind of question that is impossible to answer, but that didn't stop some from deciding that the gentler sex shouldn't really drink at all. "Not many women can hold their drink," announced one newspaper article. "When they have had a few, their laughs become loud and brittle and their mouths appallingly wide."

has been a steady stream of stories that highlight the point that women competing in a men's world are simply going to die sooner and more painfully. And hald too, evidently. This is because there is a theory - note that word - that women in high-stress jobs experience a hormonal change that can result in male-pattern baldness. Never mind that this theory does not bold up to scrutiny. It still made the headlines.

It's funny what does. Remember

the fuss about boys performing hadly in school? "Caught in the gender gap," said the beadlines, as we all worried about bow to make boys do better. In some cases, the news was accompanied by jolly little lists. "It's not all bad news, chaps... There are a few things that men, as they grow up, go on to do much, much better than women." said a headline in The Observer. These include belching, remembering dull trivia, reversing into parking spaces and reading maps. Odd, isn't it, that they shouldn't have dded: performance at university level, and earning-power after university. Women in full-time employment are still earning just 72 per cent of a man's wage. Now there's

an interesting statistic. Barely had I controlled my anxiety about boys performing badly than I had another set of beadlines to worry over. These were about girls performing badly. The Women's Unit says that it is going to find out why girls often don't live up to their potential and fall behind boys at university, or drop out as teenagers. Interestingly, none of these stories was accompanied by a list of a few things that women, as they grow up, go on to do much better than men.

It is time to get a grip, and to realise what is going on bere. All of this is connected, in some way, with our obsession with the differences between the sexes. In many cases this is not based on any real curiosity about what is different about men and women, but on a desire somebow to make points and turn back the clock in what some insist on calling "the sex war". But clocks do not go back.

Make no mistake: we are in the middle of a revolution. I know this not from any study or polibican's speech but because that is what is reflected in life. The school gate used to be a mothers-only zone. Now there are lots of dads, too. The same thing, in reverse, is going on in the workplace. Put simply, more women are working; more men are caring for children. It makes sense that more women will drink and smoke and suffer from stressrelated illnesses. It also follows

that more men will react to their new roles by suffering from depression and low self-esteem. What doesn't follow is that women are becoming men, or vice versa. Nor should we see either as needing to be punished for their

behaviour. We are oot going simply to exchange places; we are going to mutate. It's called evolution, While we may not know how things are going to change, we must stop reacting to every plece of news about men or women as if it were attached

In the meantime, however, there is the problem of the Today programme. Can such a level of stress before breakfast be good for our bealth? Perhaps someone should commission a study on this. But then I realised that I needed to get the whole thing into perspective. After all, as a woman I will live longer than most men anyway. I should die at 79, while they will die at 74. Which is worrying, but only if you are a man. Why does that make me feel better?

RIGHT OF REPLY

HEATHER HALLETT



The Chairman of the Bar Council replies to a leading article calling for legal deregulation

THE SUGGESTION that the world would be a better place if only there were more lawyers would make most people laugh, and I must admit that it causes me to sigh with disbelief, too.

But The Independent's honest suggestion in its leading article yesterday was that increasing lawyer numbers is the way to depress market prices for access to the law, and thereby enable the world and ber husband to have their day in court.

A \$10 a case public defence lawyer in the US is a lawyer who falls asleep on the job, insults his client and colludes with the prosecution to get a quick result. The evidence for this is chilling.

The fact is that the Law Society's own figures suggest solicitors' firms doing legal aid will be cut from 11.000 to 3.000 under the Irvine reforms.

Doom merchants have also suggested that the Bar will be cut in half as a result. We shall see. I believe that the public will demand good lawyers.

Most of us go to law only once or twice in our lives. We want our house purchase to be copper-bottomed, and our defence in court to be rock solid. No one benefits from being represented by a second-rate lawyer.

There has been lots of loose talk in the press about strangle-bolds, monopolies and restrictive practices. But the fact is that the Bar is subject to competition from olicitor-advocates. whose standards are set by the Law Society. We are relaxed about competition. We are also keep to compete on price - the fees of an average barrister are well below those of a solicitor because of lower overbeads.

But we shall not lower our professional standards, which are required in the public interest - that should be the primary purpose of professional self-regulation

Becoming the best of enemies

FRIENDS SHOULD be the last people to let you down. Famously, Paul Theroux feels sorely reected by his old companion Naipaul (or V S Nin-Re, as he now refers to the writer). At the end of a 30-year friendship, Theroux wants payback. So here it is: Sir Vidia's Shadow, a jiltee's revenge. Y S Nightfall, V S Nye-Powell: Theroux has fun with names, but humour is not the point of this wounded, self-pitying memoir.

On the page, Naipaul is an improbably unsavoury creature. His disdain for black writers, white liberals and what he calls "infles" (inferior types) is quite comic. Much of his arrogance is mere pompous la-di-da. But Theroux has an agenda: wherever possible, he turns a buffoon into a vicious, diabolical homunculus.

The authors first met in Kampala, Uganda, erere University. Naipaul was 10 years older and already the world's most famous West Indian writer. He quickly became an important mentor and influence on Theroux. One of Theroux's best stories, "Sinning with Annie", sparkles in imitation of Naipaul's The Mystic Masseur. Yet, where Naipaul describes cultural dislocation with a real sense of mystery and pain, Theroux has mustered only a tepid sense of his own rootlessness and exile from America.

looks out from his hotel room

across the Amstel to the girl

cycling by the canal who lifts

her hand and waves and when

she smiles he is back in times

when every Hollywood producer

wanted to turn his life

into that bitter-sweet story

where be falls badly, but only

in love with Pier Angeli,

. . .



FRIDAY BOOK

SIR VIDIA'S SHADOW: A FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE CONTINENTS

BY PAUL THEROUX, HAMISH HAMILTON, £17.99

Is Theroux jealous? None of his work approaches Naipaul's A House for Mr Biswas for delicious pessimism and supple irony. Theroux ridicules Naipaul and makes a meal of his fastidious distaste for African culture. "You see? Even here. Bongo drums!" Naipaul joshes in Uganda. Born in Trinidad to an upper-caste Brahmin family, Nalpaul apparently views Africans in 1966. Theroux, then 24, was teaching at Mak- as spearchuckers waiting to be civilised. Yet how much of his condescending regality was an act?
In The Mystic Masseur, Naipaul was with-

ering about Indians who emulate white ways. The novel's failed Trinidad schoolteacher, Pundit Ganesh, reinvents himself as G Ramsay Muir Esq. MA, a puffed-up fraud. Theroux suggests that, with age and success, his friend has turned white inside his dark skin: Naipaul has become, to use the unpleasant expression. a Bounty bar A fully-fledged member of the

Carol Lynley, Natalie Wood;

that day he strolled into the studio,

fall of fifty-two, and played

those perfect lines across

the chords of My Funny Valentine -

and now when he looks up from

his window and her passing smile

into the blue of a perfect sky

be knows this is one of those

rare days when he can truly fly.

British Establishment, Sir Vidia resembles the

Ramsay Muir be once despised. Naipaul has often heen attacked for betraying his Caribbean heritage. "Naipaul's a very con-servative kinda guy." the West Indian writer George Lamming once told me. Lamming's Afroed hair and rootsy, tropical ease made Naipaul wince. A Brahmin is never ambushed by West Indian sensuality. In one book, Naipaul claims to "detest" calypso culture and steel bands. Yet, on safari with Theroux in Rwanda. be speaks glowingly of the Trinidadian calypso singers Mighty Sparrow and Lord Invader So where does the truth lie?

Theroug himself is not so mindful of the facts. as Sir Vidia's Shadow has its own inaccuracies. George Lamming is not from Trinidad, but Barbados. B S Johnson's experimental novel-in-abox was not called Trowl (it was The Unfortunotes). Johnson, an irreverent spirit, regarded Naipaul as "a prick". Now, 25 years later, Theroux goes further Naipaul is a misogynist, a frequenter of prostitutes, a food snob, a scrounger, a fanabcal time-keeper, a palmistry freak. V S Nipple may know his wines, says Theroux, but he's still a jumped-up babu shopkeeper.

In truth, Sir Vidio's Shadow is a posh kissand-tell of the sort regularly churned out by celebrities. Usually these include prurient sexual revelations and divorce settlement details. So we learn that Theroux was turned on by Naipaul's long-suffering wife Patsy ("her weeping made me want to hold her and fondle her hreasts"). This put some strain on the writer's friendship, though we are not told why they even-

Theroux is never so crass as when writing about women. At a lunch given by Naipaul be fantasises about Antonia Fraser ("I wanted to clutch her shepherdess costume", be says in full confessional mode.) Theroux's undistinguished much dignity. prose had the undesired effect of sending me



V S Nightfall, as Paul Theroux would have it

right back to Naipaul. Theroux tells us: "Friendship arises less from an admiring love and strength than a sense of gentleness, a suspicion of weakness". What does that mean? Honed to a laconic flatness, the Naipaul sentence is a stringent antidote to this sort of vapid imprecision.

While be is quick to condemn an old friend's snobbery. Theroux never investigates his own patronising contempt for foreign culture. Naipaul views the world from a patrician. Brahmin vantage; Theroux, from a preppy, American point of view. At one point, Theroux talks about the "pissing, monkey-eating" Bachinga tribe of Africa. This is the authentic, superior Theroux tone. So who is the more narrow author -Theroux or Naipaul?

Theroux made his name by travelling round the world on steam trains and then telling us about it, Sir Vidio's Shadow is a voyeuristic trip into the private lives of two famous writers. While Theroux offers the occasional insight into the nature of friendship, this book smacks more of pique and vengeance. The question is: will Naipaul stoop to retaliate? I suspect he has too

IAN THOMSON

The cost of living goes up at Christmas

Do we mean mince pies, turkey and presents? Not exactly. We mean physically staying alive.

Below 3°C, living on the streets becomes intolerable. Without proper food, the body can't keep warm. Without warm shelter. beautiful starlit nights can literally kill you.

Kathy doesn't want a white Christmas. If it snows while she sleeps, she might not wake up. We'd like to give Kathy shelter this winter and, more important, a real chance to rebuild her life and find a permanent home.

People often walk straight past Kathy, not knowing how to help. We could help, if only you'd help us.



When it's cold, £25 could save a life Call the number below or complete this coupon and post it to:

Crisis, Room 120, FREEPOST, London El IBR ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £250° other £ I enclose a cheque made payable to Crisis. OR debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Switch[†] other_ Card no.

*Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid

If you don't wish to receive information from other relevant charities, please tick []

Postcode

This poem comes from John Harvey's new collection, Bluer Than This', published by Smith/Doorstop Books (£5.95)

FRIDAY POEM

CHET BAKER

Freddie Young

THE WORLD'S greatest cameraman, by general consent, and winner of no less than three Academy Awards, Freddie Young was one of the last links with the silent era. He had the longest career of any cameraman.

He was born in 1902, and lived in Shepherd's Bush. As a boy, he was fascinated by films, and he and his brother Bill went to the cinema at least twice a week. His favourite actress was Mary Pickford - probably because of the exquisite lighting she received from the cinematographer Charles Rosher.

He also went regularly to the Lime Grove swimming baths. Opposite was a vast greenhouse of a building which aroused Freddie's curiosity. He was told it was a film studio. He thought how marvellous it would be to work in such a romantic place, and be knocked on the door. He was very surprised to be taken on at once. It was 1917, and most of the workers had gone to France. Freddie himself, at 14 too young to join up, had heen doing war work, drilling hand grenades in a munition factory – a job he bated, and which he quickly abandoned.

His first position at the Gaumont Studio, Lime Grove tlater occupied by the BBC) was in the laboratory, the best possible training for a cameraman. A year later, he was left entirely in charge of the lab, and he was able to experiment with tinting and toning. By 1919 he was lab manager, and when Gaumont closed the lab he was made assistant cameraman - he did "all the jobs nobody else felt like doing".

He drove the studio car, took the stills, projected the rushes and even cut the film - in addition to helping the cameraman six days a week and often Sundays as well. During the making of features like Rob Roy (1922), be volunteered to do dangerous stunts - falling 50 feet for instance, from a castle wall into a sheet which looked the size of a pocketbandkerchief, beld by members of the crew. The director, William Kellino, rewarded him with 10 shillings.

Young was as handsome as any leading man and as a young man be looked like a tougher version of Ivor Novello. He doubled Novello in of weeks. He and Wilcox formed a Triumph of the Rat 11926), dodging partnership which was to result in

through the Paris traffic so the company wouldn't have to risk their expensive star.

During the Twenties his most ambitious film would have been a version of Lawrence of Arabia which M.A. Wetherell was planning in 1927, hut which fell through. However, he had already been on a location trip to the Egyptian desert for Fires of Fate (1923) - and he was present when Howard Carter uncovered Tutankhamun's tomb. Back in England, he did a lot of newsreel work and he photographed an elaborate recreation of the Somme in documentary style as well as a feature film set in the last weeks of the Great War, Victory (1927).

During the making of Victory, Young married Marjorie Gaffney, an ssistant director with Victor Saville and Alfred Hitchcock. He worked for Hitchcock on Blackmail (1929), doing the elaborate series of dissolves (in the camera) for the montage which opens the picture.

No shot in his career aroused so much comment as the scene when Omar Sharif emerged from a mirage

Blackmail is famous for being the first British talkie. Young had, however, already converted a silent into a talkie - White Cargo (1929), using a hastily converted studio at Elstree. He had to work incredibly hard - 72 hours non-stop - under miserably hot conditions so that carpenters could come in and start huilding the sets for Hitchcock's picture.

Young subsequently joined Herbert Wilcox. He worked out a system of multiple cameras, rather like the technique used in television, and could complete a talkie in a couple



Young (right) with David Lean on the set of Lawrence of Arabia (1962); Lean directed it, and Young was the cinematographer

some memorable pictures. Goodnight Vienna (1932), for instance, made a star of Anna Neagle (and Wilcox married her). During the Thirties, Young trained many of the men who would become the great cameramen of the future - such as Jack Cardiff and Freddie Francis.

He first met the director David Lean on Major Barbara (1941), adapted from the play by Shaw, which was supposed to he directed by Gabriel Pascal. In fact Lean and Harold French were doing the directing and when Lean gave Freddie some terse instructions, Young replied "Don't teach your grand-

Lean's memory, and years later he was unwilling to use Young for Lawrence of Arabia. When he bowed to the inevitable, however, Young arrived on the location, marched up to Lean and said "Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs."

By this time, Freddie Young had had a far more adventurous life even than David Lean. He had been back to the desert again, directing the second unit on Caesar and Cleopatra (1945) - shooting the Egyptian army for Pascal - and had crossed the Uboat-infested Atlantic to film Michael Powell's 49th Parallel (1941) in Cana-

mother to suck eggs." This stuck in da. He spent four months there, travelling 20,000 miles. He was commissioned into the Army Film Production Unit and was hlown up by a phosphorous bomb. He spent 15 years at MGM - making pictures like Ivanhoe (1952), for which he was nominated for an Oscar, and Mogambo (1953) for John Ford - and was a stern disciplinarian.

Often during the shooting of Laurence of Arabia he had to drive Lean - lost in thought in his beloved desert-back to the camera. He was nearly 60, but displayed ferocious energy. The company saw virtually no rushes in the desert and the impact of Young's work when they eventually saw it in London was stunning. No shot in his entire career aroused so much comment as the scene when Omar Sharif emerged from a mirage - achieved with a unique telephoto lens he had had the foresight to hring with him from Panavision in America.

David Lean and Freddie Young formed a partnership. "He gives you an inspiration," said Young, "so you go out of your depth and try and do something extraordinary." Lean knew there was no need to hover at Young's shoulder. As he wrote to him,

For the most part I will give you a set-up, fiddle around with the props, talk to the actors and go and have a cup of tea. 1 know a hit about lenses, consider myself rather bright about composition and, at a pinch, make a suggestion or minor criticism about lighting - but on the whole you're a lonely man left to your own devices.

Lean was being modest - he had a passionate concern for the visuals - hut he knew that Freddie Young, of all cameramen, was equally passionate. He used him on Lawrence, Dr Zhinago (1965. Young's favourite film) and Ryan's Dnughter (1970) and Young won an Oscar on each. He also photographed Lord Jim (1965) for Richard Brooks, with Peter O'Toole. The Battle of Britain (1969), and Nicholas and Alexandra (1971) for which he was again nominated

for an Academy Award. I first met Freddie Young when he was working on You Only Live Twice in 1967. I was amazed that in the midst of terrific pressure on a colossal production (Ken Adam's set alone cost \$1m) he took the time to answer my questions with immense enthusiasm and friendliness. And he continued to do the same throughout the years, helping immeasurably with my hiography of David Lean and a television series on the European silent film, Cinema Europe. I never met his first wife, who died in 1964, hut Joan, a remarkable woman and his second wife, was absolutely devoted to him, as was his son David, and they were both with him at the end.

In his fascinating memoirs (which Faber will publish next year), Freddie Young concludes his story with his one directorial effort, Arthur's Hallowed Ground, which he made for television in 1985, And he added a note, in his own hand: "Mind you, I'm 88 years old now and 1 spend most of my time painting, and I enjoy that enormously. I'm creating pictures with a paintbrush with nobody to interfere with my work. It's marvellous."

KEVIN BROWNLOW

Frederick Archibald Young: born London 9 October 1902: OBE 1970: married 1927 Marjorie Gaffirey (died 1964; one adopted son, one adopted daughter), 1965 Joan Morduch (one son); died London 1 December 1998.

Christopher Dow

CHRISTOPHER DOW was one of the most distinguished applied economists of our time. His career spanned the whole post-war period: from 1945, when he joined the Treasury, right up to last month when be was putting the finishing touches to his final hook which is to be published next month.

He worked in four institutions at the beart of macro-economic research, advice and policy-making: the British Treasury, the Bank of England, the OECD in Paris and the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR), and was prolific and pervasively influential in

One could always recognise a Dow paper by the invisibility of its style. There were not only - of course - no clichés, infelicities or obscurities; there were no elegant turns of phrase either. There was nothing but the exposition or the argument. It was almost as if one wasn't reading at all.

Dow dealt with complicated questions, where evidence is always partial, theories are very difficult to test and value judgements lurk in the most apparently banal propositions. It was a pleasure to have such matters simplified and clarified by a man who knew that at bottom none of them were in the least simple or clear. It must be said that it could also be frustrating to anyone (which includes most of us at one time or other) who wanted more than the known facts or theories would justify. He refused to do the reader's work for him.

His deep fastidiousness of mind, combined with a somewhat reticent and understated manner probably meant that his contributions to eco-

nomic policy and understanding were not as widely recognised as they should have been, especially by those of a dogmatic or superficial turn of mind. A horde of such people stormed the citadels of economic power in the late Seventies and early Eighties under the banner of monetarism ~ a theory that held that all one had to do to cure inflation was to control the growth of the quantity of money. Those who, like Dow, believed that it was much more difficult and complicated than that, were apt to he dismissed as fuddy duddy and obstructionist. But he bad the last laugh. His book, written jointly with

war and began his prote reer in 1945, when he joined the Treasury as an Economic Adviser.

For the next nine years he worked in the Economic Section of the Treasury, a small unit of professional economists - for many years there were no more than a dozen - who aimed to bring economic thinking and methods of analysis into a distinctly unregenerate and seat-of-thepants institution. In 1954, with the strong support of Sir Robert Hall, then Head of the Economic Section, Dow moved to the NIESR.

Up to this time the NIESR had been somewhat of a backwater. The

One could always recognise a Dow paper by the invisibility of its style. It was almost as if one wasn't reading at all

Iain Saville, A Critique of Monetary Policy: theory and British experience (1988) was devastating in its reasoned demolition of monetarism. Delay in its publication and the unexcitingly careful nature of its conclusions muted its public impact. But its arguments had been well rehearsed in official circles before publication and are in great measure embodied in the current Bank of England approach to monetary policy.

Dow was born in 1916 and educated at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School and University College London (of which he became a Fellow in 1973). He served in the Royal Air Force in the Second World

Hall-Dow plan was to build it into a centre for macro-economic analysis and research which would be able to challenge and second-guess the Treasury, which - almost unimaginably today - was then virtually the only source of economic forecasts. In his eight years at the Institute as Deputy Director Dow did much to bring about this transformation, setting up the quarterly Review and helping to huild up a centre of excellence and an interchange of staff with White-hall to the benefit of both sides.

These years were also marked by what be would have regarded as the most important events of his life: his marriage to Clare Keegan and his

conversion to Catholicism, both of which proved deeply enduring.

Then, after a brief return to the Treasury the Dows left for Paris for 10 years at the OECD, where Dow was Assistant Secretary-General. These were probably the happiest days of his life. Professionally, he presided over a large expert multinational staff and had no shortage of challenges to meet. He was at the centre of international economic affairs over a period which began with the high noon of the Bretton Woods system, saw its slow painful break-up and final collapse and ended with the catastrophic quintupling of oil prices.

Personally, the Dows were able to live in some style in a city they found very sympathetic. Dow always had a love for France and all things French. For many years the family took their annual boliday near Montelimar. He had a wide knowledge and a deep love of French literature and he liked what he saw as the French guilt-free attitude towards life.

Towards the end of his time in Paris, he was asked if he would let his name go forward as a candidate for a chair in economics at Oxford. He did so and was duly appointed. But Leslie O'Brien, then Governor of the Bank of England, and needing someone as Economics Director of the Bank, persuaded Dow that his talents would be better employed, and that he would be happier, if he did not leave the official sector for academe. Oxford's loss was the Bank of England's gain. O'Brien did not personally benefit from his inspired recruitment as he retired almost at the moment Dow arrived. But for the next 11 years until his 65th birthday in 1981 as Executive Director and thereafter as



Adviser - Dow worked as a close confidante to the next Governor, Gordon (now Lord) Richardson.

It was a partnership that worked wonderfully. Richardson, a subtle man, but not a professional economist, appreciated the distinction of Dow's mind and came to value his judgement on economic questions and to enjoy his contributions to the

Bank's debates over a wide area. For his part Dow, hy judicious recruitment of outside talent and encouragement of that within, enormously raised the standing and reputation of the Bank's economic department, provoking in due course a healthily jealous response in the Treasury.

Finally, having reached an age beyond that which most hureaucracies

remain, Dow left the Bank to return after a busy 22 years to the NIESR. this time as a Visiting Fellow. Actually, he visited more frequently than that title usually implies: four or five days a week right up to his death in his 82nd year. And at a time when others garden or play golf or read, other men's books, he set to and pro duced two major works of his own: the critique of monetary theory and a highly original book (about to be published on the recessions the UK has experienced since the First World War, seeking to see what we can learn from both their similarities and their differences.

do not allow even the grandest to

Dow's achievements were recognised by a Fellowship of the British Academy in 1982. hut not - scandalously one might think - by any appearance in the Honours List.

Like any serious person, Christopher Dow cannot be defined by his professional interests and achieve ments. The importance of his family and religion to him has already been mentioned. In addition he derived a nourishment from all the arts. Painting in particular, which he practised in a modest but serious way, meant a great deal to him.

KIT MCMAHON

John Christopher Roderick Dow, economist: born Harrogate. North Yorkshire 25 February 1916; Assistant Secretary-General, OECD, Paris 1963-73: Executive Director, Bank of England 1973-81; Advisor to the Governor of the Bank of England 1981-84: FBA 1982; Visiting Fellow. NIESR 1984-98; married 1960 Clare Keegan (one son, three daughters); died London 1 December 1998.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson

TWO ATTRIBUTES distinguished Brendan Jackson from his fellow Members of the Air Force Board: he was a qualified interpreter, speak-ing fluent German and French and with a BA degree in modern Japanese; and he had successfully ejected from a V-bomber.

This ejection occurred when he was flying as co-pilot in a Victor B.2 of No 100 Squadron, XM714, which took off from Wittering on a night training exercise on 20 March 1963. Shortly after getting airborne, at about 800ft, an emergency occurred which made it uncontrollable and the captain ordered Flt Lt Jackson to eject. The Victor came down at Bar-

nack, about eight miles north-northeast of Wittering, with the loss of the other five crew members.

Jackson had joined the RAF in 1956 on a National Service commission after graduating at London University - Air Ministry policy in those days being to encourage graduate entrants who, when they became senior officers, could talk on equal terms with their top contemporaries in governing, legal or industrial circles.

He was posted to No 100 Squadron - which was due to be equipped to carry Blue Steel air-to-surface nuclear missiles - in June 1962, having previously had jet-flying experience on Canberras, with No 31 Squadron, based at Laarbruch in Germany with a reconnaissance role in the 2nd Tactical Air Force. His tour with the V-bomber force had begun at the end of 1961, with conversion to Victors at No 232 OCU at Gaydon, and by the end of his service with No 100 Squadron - on which he was already being recognised as a high flyer in RAF career terms - he was a Flight

Squadron Leader. He was posted to attend the Staff College at Andover in 1966 and then after doing a re-conversion course on Canberras at No 231 OCU given his first squadron command, of No 13 Sqn. which operated PR

Commander with the rank of

Canberras from Luqa, Malta, ima re-connaissance role. Then in 1969 he returned to Germany as Personal Staff Officer (PSO) to the Chief of Staff at No 2 ATAF Headquarters.

By now a Wing Commander, his experience widened still further with an exchange posting in 1972 to the US Armed Forces Staff Colleges - during which he had the opportunity of flying B-52 strategic bombers; then in 1974-76 he held a key and demanding appointment, of PSO to the Chief of the Air Staff.

A Group Captain from 1977, he was given command of a V-force station, Marham, which had two squadrons of Victor K2 tankers - on

which he had done a conversion course. After two years in this post his future lay with increasingly senior appointments - at the Air Ministry and at Supreme Headquarters. Allied Powers Europe (Shape): he was successfully Director of Air Staff Plans (with promotion to Air Commodore in 1980 and Air Vice-Marshal by 1984), then Assistant

Chief of Staff (Policy) at Shape. His career encompassed Command experience when in 1986 he was appointed Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief at Strike Command; then in 1988 he joined the Air Force Board as Air Member Inr Sup-

promoted to Air Chief Marshal in 1990. But, sadly, an increasingly debilitating illness brought his RAF career to a close: he took premature retirement on medical grounds; 4 November 1993 was his last day of service.

HUMPHREY WYNN

Brendan James Jackson, nir force officer: born London 23 August 1935: Assistant Chief of Staff (policy). Shape 1984-86; Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief. Strike Command 1986-88; KCB 1987: AMSO 1988-90: GCB 1992; murried 1959 Shirley Norris (one ply and Organisation (AMSO), being Thurpe, Norfolk 19 November 1998.

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John Chadwick

RECEIVED a note in the post this morning about a new tablet from Pylos. I'll write it up on the board for you." This typical start to a Cambridge University lecture on Mycenaean Greek gives some idea of the excitement of John Chadwick's lectures in the heady years following the discovery that the puzzling symbols on small clay tablets from Crete and mainland Greece dating from the second millenium BC were hiding a form of early Greek.

Chadwick's role in Mycenaean studies was a major one. Linear B - as the once unknown script was originally labelled - was initially deciphered by an architect, Michael Ventris, who in a BBC programme in 1952 suggested that Linear B was Greek.

Chadwick had recently been appointed to a lectureship in Classics at Cambridge, and was busy writing lectures. But after bearing Ventris's broadcast, he checked out the proposed solution with his usual thoroughness and caution. He realised after four days' work that Ventris was probably right. He then wrote - with typical modesty - to offer his services as a "mere philologist". Ventris accepted gratefully. Chadwick's close collaboration with him lasted until 1956, when Ventris was suddenly killed, aged 34, in a road accident.

With Ventris, Chadwick published an account of the decipherment, "Evidence for Greek Dialect in the Mycenaean archives" in the Journal of Hellenic Studies (1953) which broke Hellenic Society records when 1,000 offprint requests were received. This was followed by Documents in Mycenaean Greek (1956), an account of the Mycenaean writing system and language, together with a transcription and translation of 300 tablets from Knossos, Pylos and Mycenae. This has deservedly become a classic.

Chadwick was born in 1920 and educated at St Paul's School, then at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. In the Second World War, he was involved in cryptography. His first academic post was as a lexicographer on the Oxford Latin Dictionary, and he retained a life-Ing interest in lexicography: he com-piled a lexicon of Swedenhorg's Neo-Latin, and his latest book was entitled Lexicographica Graeca (1996). At Cambridge, he lectured in Classics from 1952, and was a Fellow of Downing College from 1960. He was the Perceval Maitland Laurence Reader in Classics 1969-84.

He lectured clearly and competently on all Greek dialects. But his work on Mycenaean is his major legacy to the

Classical world, and a final volume of the Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos (a collaborative effort led by him) will be published next year

Chadwick was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1967, and was much in demand at international conferences. He received numerous honours from universities abroad: fittingly, his main recreation, be claimed, was "travel". Even after his retirement he continued working hard, and was recently (in October this year) given a major international award, the Italian Feltrinelli Prize of the Accademia Nazionale dei

He was an exceptionally hucid and coherent lecturer, though he avoided eye contact with his audience, partly out of shyness, partly because the detailed "meatiness" of his lectures required attention to notes. Yet he was able to write and broadcast at a more popular level: The Decipherment of Linear B (1958), The Mycengean World (1976) and Linear B and Related Scripts (1987) provided lucid, well-written surveys for non-specialists, and these works have been translated into numerous

He had a good sense of humour, and showed a lighter side to those who knew him. Some traces of this came across in his work, as in a light-hearted evening talk on ancient Greek food and wine: if a mouse was found floating in a vat of wine, it had to be cremated, then the ashes scattered in the vat to purify it, we were told. His books also showed some hints of this quiet sense of humour: "we suspect something has gone wrong here," he commented when a potential translator of an inscription from Crete suggested including the line; "supreme of the eggs the white".

John Chadwick was a warm-hearted person, who took great pains with his students, whether at undergraduate or research level. I remember him patiently and thoroughly going over points of detail when, as a student, I questioned him about a lecture I had missed. As a young researcher, I asked his advice about research topics: he talked through various possibilities at times when (I now realise) he must have been very busy.

He remained in touch with many of his old students - and they with him. He usually responded by return of post if, in later years, I wrote and asked his advice or opinion about any point of language. We once had a correspondence about whether "different from" in English was based on Latin, for example. When I was appointed to my current Ox-



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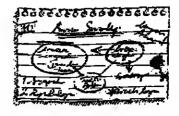
Chadwick (above) discovered, with Michael Ventris, that symbols on ancient clay tablets found in Crete and Greece hid a form of early Greek, labelled 'Linear B'. The sequence below (with phonetic values) denotes 'tripod', a three-legged cauldron, one of the first words to be deciphered

a typically generous gesture. His warmbearted kindness will long be remembered by those who knew him.

JEAN AITCHISON

John Chadwick, classical scholar: born 21 May 1920; Editorial Assistant, Oxford Latin Dictionary, Clorendon ford post, he gave me his Oxford gown, Press 1946-52; Assistant Lecturer in

Classics, Cambridge University 1952-54. Lecturer in Classics 1954-66. Reader in Greek Language 1966-69. Perceval Maitland Laurence Reader in Classics 1969-84 (Emeritus): Collins Fellow, Downing College, Cambridge 1960-84. Honorary Fellow 1984-98; FBA 1967; married 1947 Joan Hill (one son); died 24 November 1998.



NEUROLOGICAL NOTES

What Gage's accident did to his brain

the Rutland and Burlington Railroad was hlasting through rocky terrain to lay a new line across Vermont. Phineas Gage was the foreman of the leading gang, and as such he supervised the numerous controlled explosions that were being made to level the ground. He was perfectly fitted for this responsible task but one hot afternoon he made a momentary error which was to change his life in a pecu-

liarly fundamental way. Gage had just filled a cavity with explosive and was tamping it down prior to detonation with a heavy metal har - three-and-a-halffeet long, and nearly two inches across. As he did this someone called to him; he turned to see who it was - and the tamping iron struck the rock and sent a premature spark into the powder. The force of the resulting explosion jettisoned the tamping iron a clear 100 feet. En route it passed through Gage's head.

The iron entered Gage's left eye socket, continued at a slight angle through the frontal lobes of his brain and out through the top of his skull. Astonishingly he did not even pass out, And despite the bole in his head, through which his brain could be seen pulsating, Gage sat upright in an ox-cart and talked quite animatedly while be was taken to a nearby hotel to be treated by a local doctor. His

IN THE summer of 1848, cheerful indifference to his which he never regained plight was probably the first sign of the extraordinary character changes that were

> Despite losing a great chunk of brain, Gage seemed at first to have got off lightly. He lost sight in his left eye hut his speech, movement, memory and other functions were unimpaired. However, as be got better those around him found he had changed dramatically in terms of bebaviour and personality. The old Gage was known as shrewd, sensible, polite, restrained and industrious. The new Gage, according to John

Harlow, a physician who

made a detailed report of

the case, was "fitful, irrever-

ent ... manifesting but little

deference for his fellows, impatient of restraint or advice ... pertinaciously obstinate, yet capricious and vacillating ... a child in his intellectual capacity . . . [but with the] animal passions of a strong man." Harlow noted that Gage was for ever making plans, and then discarding them, and was given to outhursts of bad temper and swearing such that "ladies

were advised not to stay long in his presence". Gage's life went into rapid decline. His employers would not have him back because he was so unreliable, and he was sacked or walked out of every other job be tried. The brain injury finally killed him in 1861 when he suffered a massive epileptic fit from

consciousness. There was no autopsy and Gage was huried in the normal way, along with his tamping iron.

The "Horrible Accident", as the Boston Globe described it, might have been forgotten had its consequences not been so meticulously documented by Harlow Today neuroscientists are using brain scanners to map the functions carried out by each bit of the hrain and the sorry consequences of Gage's Florrible Accident are understandable in the light of this new science.

The neurologist Hannah Damasio, of the University of Iowa recently worked out hy using computerised tomography on the skull - exactly which parts of Gage's brain were lost. They match precisely the areas now known to give us the qualities we associate with our "highest" selves - the ability to execute plans, to inhibit base urges, and to make us sensitive to other people's emotions. Gage's could not do those things after his accident because he no longer had the requisite hits of brain: part of his personality was literally hlown away. His case remains one of the most persuasive demonstrations of the modular construction of the human

Rita Corter is author of 'Mapping the Mind' (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25)

GAZETTE

Thomas Godfrey, poet and

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

VICTOR: On 11 November 1998, to Inger (née Larsen) and Peter, a daughter, Ceciha Aurora, a sister for Lucia.

DEATHS

ELLIOT: Elizabeth, of Clifton,
Bristol, died 28 November, after
a short illness. Widow of John,
sorely missed by Julia, Kate.
Glynne, Rhodri and Martin.
Fimeral at South Bristol Crematorium, 11.30am on Tuesday 8
December. Flowers / donations
to Oxfam or Amnesty, c/o
Co-operative Funeral Services,
20 High Street, Westbury-onTrym, Bristol BS9 3DU.

WILKES: Barbara, died 24 November. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, Monday 14 December at 2.45pm.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniver-saries, In memoriam) are charged at 25.50 a line (VAT extra).

(1) OTHER Gazette announce-ments (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages, which must be sub-mitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime tele-phone number.

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BIRTHDAYS

Miss Barbara Amiel, columnist, 58; The Marchioness of Anglesey, former chairman, **Broadcasting Complaints** Commission, 74; Sir Stephen Barrett, former ambassador to Poland, 67; Lt-Col Sir Simon Bland, former royal equerry, 75; Mr Jeff Bridges, actor, 49; Mrs Angela Browning MP, 52; Mr Horst Buchholz, actor 66; Miss Ann Christopher, sculptor, 51; Mr Ronnie Corbett, comedian, 68; Mr Hywel Davies, former jockey, 42; Admiral Sir David Dobson, former chief of staff to Commander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, 60: Miss Deanna Durbin (Mme Charles David), former actress and singer, 77; Mr Philip Hammond MP, 43; Mr Adrian Head, circuit judge, 75; Miss Gemma Jones, actress, 56; Mr Clive Leach, chairman, Yorkshire Enterprise Ltd, Leeds Health Authority, 64; Mrs Pamela Winifred Matthews. former Principal, Westfield College, 84; Mr Richard Meade, Three-Day Eventer, 60; Mr William Menzies-Wilson, former chairman, Edinburgh Tankers, 72; Miss Yvonne Minton, mezzosoprano, 60; Professor Lord Morris of Castle Morris, former Principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 68; Miss Pamela Stephenson, actress and comedienne, 48; Mr Derek

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Cotton, Puritan leader in New England, 1585;

Wyatt MP, 49.

playwright, 1736; Jeanne-Françoise Julie-Adelaide Bernard, Madame Récamier, French society leader, 1777; Thomas Cartyle, writer, 1795; General Sir William Fenwick Williams, soldier, 1800; Dr John Kitto, writer and Biblical editor, 1804; George Henry Boughton, painter, 1833; Samuel Butler, writer and satirist, 1835; Johann Heinrich Bonawitz, pianist, 1839; Lillian Russell (Helen Louise Leonard), singer and actress, 1861; Edith Louisa Cavell, nurse, 1865; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1875; Richard Horatio Edgar Wallace, thriller novelist and playwright, 1675; Sir Herbert Hamilton Harty, conductor, 1879; Katharine Susannah Prichard, novelist, 1883; Sir Herbert Read,

poet and critic, 1893; Alfred

Leslie Rowse, scholar and

historian, 1903.

Deaths: Pope John XXII, 1334; Nicholas Ferrar, theologian, 1637, Armand-Jean du Plessis, Cardinal and duc de Richelieu, statesman, 1642; William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, 1649; Thomas Hobbes, political philosopher, 1679; John Gay, poet, playwright and writer, 1732; Robert Banks Jenkinson, second Earl of Liverpool, statesman, 1828; William Sturgeon, electrical engineer, 1850; James Duffield Harding, landscape painter, 1863; Stefan George, poet, 1933; Thomas Hunt Morgan, geneticist, 1945; Glenn Luther Martin, aircraft inventor, 1955; Jack (John Wesley Vivian) Payne, bandleader, 1969;

philosopher, 1975: Baron Edward Benjamin Britten, composer, 1976.

On this day: Nicholas Break-

spear was elected Pope Adrian IV, thus becoming the only Englishman to be pope, 1154; the Council of Trent was dissolved, 1563; the Observer was first published, 1791; income tax was first introduced, by William Pitt, 1798; the Inquisition in Spain was abolished by Napoleon, 1808; suttee (the hurning of a widow on her husband's funeral pyre) was abolished in India, 1829; the colony of Queensland was established, 1859; the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, London, were opened, 1882; the Chain Pier at Brighton was destroyed during heavy gales, 1896; the kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was proclaimed, 1918; Timothy Healy became the first Governor-General of the Irish Free State, 1922; after two trains collided in fog at Lewisham, London, 92 people were killed and 173 injured, 1957; Jean Bedel Bokassa crowned himself emperor of the Central African Empire at Bangui, 1977; Dr Francisco de Sa Carneiro, prime minister of Portugal, was killed in an air crash at Lisbon, 1980.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anno, St Bernard of Parma, St John of Damascus, St Maruthas, St Osmund and

LECTURES

National Gallery: Norman Coady, "Celebrations (i):

Uccello, The Battle of Snn Romano", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Nancy Osborn, "Lady Duff Gordon-Lucile and Fashionable Dress, 1900-1914", 2pm. British Museum: Joyce

Filer, "Styles of Burial in Ancient Egypt", 11.30am.

DINNERS

HMS Victory Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening on board HMS Victory, Portsmouth

Coningsby Club The officers and committee of the Coningsby Club hosted their Christmas Dinner yesterday evening at the Royal Over-Seas League, London SW1. Mr Alan Clark MP was the guest of honour. Mr Jere my Quin, Chairman of the Coningsby Chib, presided.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.38pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1863. Reform Syna-gogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573, New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

College was not liable for diving accident

of a swimming pool to which access was prohibited were under no duty of care to a trespasser who was injured by diving into the pool, where that trespasser was aware of, and had willingly accepted, the risk posed by

his actions. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the defendants, representative governors of Harpur Adams Agricultural College, against a finding that they were liable in damages to the plaintiff for a hreach of duty to him under the Occupiers Liability Act

The plaintiff, a student at the college, and two friends had climbed over the wall surrounding the swimming pool late at night when access to the pool was prohibited. They had been drinking.

The three dived into the pool, the plaintiff diving more deeply than he had intended. The plaintiff hit the top of his head on the bottom of the pool, as a result of which he suffered tetraplegia. The plaintiff claimed dam-

ages from the defendants for breach of duty under the Occupiers Liability Act 1984. The judge found in the plaintiff's favour, but held that he was guilty of contributory negligence and apportioned liability as to 60 per cent against the defendants and 40 per cent against the plaintiff. The defendants appealed.

Anthony Goldstaub QC and Toby Hooper (Oldham Rust Jobson) for the defendants, Richard Lissack QC and Hywel Jenkins (Cunningham John) for the plaintiff.

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

4 DECEMBER 1998

Ratcliff v McConnell and others

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery) 30 November 1998

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that the judge's reasoning and conclusions had been contaminated by errors of fact, but there were other difficulties with the judgment.

It was important in a case such as the present to identify the risk against which the plaintiff needed to be protected, if at all. In particular, it was necessary to see whether the plaintiff himself was aware of the risk of injury hecause it was obvious to an adult man. The judge had not defined the risk and bad not adverted to the plaintiff's evidence relating to knowledge of it except in relation to contributory negligence. The risk in the present case was that in diving into the swimming pool late at night the plaintiff might hit his head on the bottom. The risk was obvious, unless the plaintiff made sure that there was sufficient depth of water to dive safely, which be had not.

The Occupiers Liability Act 1984 placed a duty on the occupier to trespassers "in respect of any risk of their suffering injury on the premis-

es by reason of any danger due to the state of the premises or to things done or omitted to be done on them".

Where a duty was owed under the 1984 Act, the duty was "to take such care as is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case", and varied greatly depending on whether the trespasser was very young or very old and so might not appreciate the nature of the danger which was or ought to be apparent to

The question of volenti non fit injurio had to be considered at the same time as the question of the existence of the duty, since if the trespasser willingly accepted the risk as his, there was, under section 1(6) of the 1984 Act, no duty owed by

an adult.

the occupier. The plaintiff had been a very frank witness. The admissions he had made made it impossible for him to succeed. He had been told expressly by the defendants that the pool was closed. He had not been drunk, and had known what he was doing. Ha had deliberately climbed the wall. He had intended to make a shallow dive. knowing that it was necessary to make sure that there was enough water available before diving, and must have dived deeper than be bad intended. He had ignored the prohibition on access and had done what he wanted to do anyway.

It was quite plain that the plaintiff had been aware of the risk and had willingly accepted it. Accordingly, the defendants had been under no duty to him.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, visits the Surrey Space Centre for the design and build-

ing of satellites, Surrey University, Guildford; The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor, also attends, and presides over the conferment of degrees ceremony. The Duke of York visits the Ina Bearing Company, Llanelli, Dyfed; visits

Bosch Limited, Miskin, Vale of Glamorgan, Mid Glamorgan; and, as Patron, the Welsh Badminton Union, visits the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff The Princess Royal. Colonel, the Blues and Roy-

Hannah Arendt, political

als, visits Combermere Barracks, Windsor, Berkshire.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts

the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gnards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts CHANGING OF THE GUARD the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

"THINGS ARE a bit out of kilter right now." The phrase has often sprung to my lips. Sufficient to note that this is composed amid the throes of moving house (all those dictionaries, 80 boxes of books).

The noun is invariably used in this form, as a negative rather than the good order which it denotes. It often meant a frame, or

WORDS CHRISTOPHER **HAWTREE**

kilter, n.

Sometimes spelt kelter, its origins are obscure, apparently unconnected with the verb for hitching up a skirt.

ell lamented in 1883: "I must rest awhile. My brain is out of kilter." Over here, we are made

of sterner stuff: the weekend should have one back in action, that is to say in true

the mechanism of a gun,

and is familiar across

Britain and in America.

where James Russell Low-

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The unbearable niceness of Barney

ASK THE parent of a two-yearold who is the most terrifying dinosaur of all, and instead of pondering the relative menace of a tyrannosaurus and a velociraptor, they'll probably answer "Barney"

Barney is the sickliest, gooiest, "have a nice day" American camp purple dinosaur in all history. When he squeaks that he loves you, and that he loves all the children, you would gladly swap him for a real live stegosaurus wandering around your living-room. The video, called *Colours*, is

typical. Barney and his friends find a treasure map, and follow a series of clues that lead them to a treasure chest. They open it, to discover that the treasure is a rainbow. "This is the best treasure we could ever have." enthuses a sugary American boy, "as this is treasure we can share with all our friends."

But this is rubbish. If the chest had been crammed full of gold bullion, they could still have shared it with all their friends. So what they mean is, they don't mind sharing this treasure out because it's only a worthless rainbow. If there'd been anything valuable inside, we'd all have heen told to piss off and find our own treasure. "After all, children," Barney would have said. "Who painted that yellow

One of the differences between British and American culture is that, when American companies discover a new way of ripping us off, they don't bother to disguise it. Teletubbies would never be as hlatant as Barney.

"I'm so excited," he announces at the start of each video, because I've just made my first film." Then, at the eod of the plug, he says: "And remember, children I love you".

There's probably

an episode somewhere in which he says: "Hi, children. You know, Tve just patented a new Barney saloon car drive. five gears and optional oak dashboard extra. Isn't that exciting? Well, if you really love me, you'll persuade your mummy and daddy to sell their house and

Otherwise you'll be chased through the woods by a wicked wolf. And remember, I love you." There's nothing cool about Barney, as there was with Sesame Street.

So, at Wembley Arena on Sunday night, I experienced a live show in which half of the audience hated the star they'd come to see. There were a number of issues I was

fascinated to see resolved Would he, like most performers. do a live show that was much ruder than his TV act? Would support band? A singing pterodactyl from the college circuit, to be discovered by the NME. perhaps? He had certainly

followed the

Maybe Barney's

Wemhley superstar routine, coming on 20 a normal rock gig. After the friend. BJ the yellow initial dumb-struck eupboria be,

MARK STEEL



LOCATION

puppet, was still sobering up. But, within seconds of the opening, the cynicism of thoosands of parents evaporated. Because, as the dinosaur came bounding across the stage, every toddler in the arena gawped in transfixed adulation. Most of them can't really have understood what they were about to see. So the adult equivalent must be to have been dragged along to a gig in 1979, wondering why you were there at all, when suddenly out popped The Jam launching into "Down in the Tube Station at Midnight".

My son, who is just over two, has never been as ecstatic as he was in the following 90 minutes, partly because, in some respects, the show did follow the pattern of

along with about 100 others. barged to the front by the stage and did that half-dancing, halfjumping thing you do at venues such as the Brixton Academy in south London. And to prevent the most exuberant from clambering under the stage, a line of muscular security staff in white T-shirts were posted in squatting positions at the front.

There are some differences from gigs for adults. When you're diving about to "Rage Against the Machine", you tend not to have your mum behind you taking photos and warning you not to bump into the speakers. And at Wembley on Sunday, during the interval bouncers handed out hundreds of cardboard hats, which I don't remember happening when I saw Nick Cave at the Shepherd's

Bush Empire. But how did the stars spend the interval? Does the actor playing Barney have a higger dressing-room than the rest? And does he ever get artistically frustrated?

It's possible, because Barney grouples are too young even for pantomime games. Any subtle changes in choreography would therefore he lost, as would any attempt to develop the dark side of being a purple dinosaur 150 million years after the rest of his species have become extinct. The real purpose of the interval, though, is to provide an opportunity for parents and toddlers to stroll around the Barney programmes (£7), Barney caps (£8) and fluffy Barneys (£17). And with tickets at £12 each, car parking £7, and popcorn at £2.50, if you've got more than one child it's probably cheaper to go down to the Natural History Museum and put in an offer for a

complete brontosaurus In the second half, BJ announces what he'd like for his birthday. Knowing that they'll be faced with demands for a similar present, you can feel 5.000 parents thinking: "Please

say a Biro."
"I'd like a big red scooter," be says. Five thousand parents hold their head in their hands, and mutter: "Shit."

For a finale, BJ is presented with a 12-ft-high hirthday cake. What a splendid thought, that if a child were presented with a 9-ft-high birthday cake, they might say: "Dur, it's much smaller than the one BJ got from Barney."

Despite the expense, the hard-selling, and the banality, taking a toddler to see Barney is exhilarating. The calculated manner of Barney's size, loudness and brightness connects with young children, and there he is, not just on a video, but in front of them, in real life. "I want to kiss Barney." said my son – hut I didn't fancy his chances of getting past the security guards.

"Is there any chance of meeting Barney?" I asked a particularly huge bouncer afterwards. "No, that's finished, the exit's over there." he snaried in a monotone voice, while staring straight ahead, in the way American soldiers are supposed to shout, "I am a useless, weak piece of dirt, SIR!" at their sergeants.

So Barney had left the building. Maybe he was already on his way to a nightclub to do some coke.

From an adult point of view, the whole show was not as bad as it might have been. Maybe it was scaled down for an English audience, hut it was much less gooey than the TV version.

And there was clearly no chance of an encore. Which didn't bother me, as the closing number, his monster hit "I love you and you love me", left me with a unique and unforgettable experience, of feeling two completely diverse emotions at the same time.

On the one hand, there was the life-defining, overwhelming joy of watching your own child beaming and clapping in rapturous delight; and at exactly the same time, the thought: "I bloody hate that purple, poxy dinosaur."

Rural retreat for the barking mad

Cassie is depressed. Dennis needs therapy. Muffet the dog thinks he's a cat. Welcome to Bell Mead,

The Priory for pets. By Marianne Brace

ome come because they're miserable, others are into selfmutilation, a few are quite simply backing - all the time. On offer are fresh country air. a bit more space and a chance to romp in seven rolling acres. For the stressed-out stray, Bell Mead - Battersea Dogs Home's country annexe - is for canines what The Priory is for pop stars.

Bell Mead, a stick's throw from where the Magna Carta was signed, is fit for a king, or at least minor royalty. Leased from the Crown, the red brick mansion with its sweeping drive, towering camellias, oaks and small lake, once belonged to a relative of Queen Victoria's.

We'd like to

bring some

stories

attention.

This Sunday read our special

report in

¥THE INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT

horror

to your

alive with the sound of barking. Battersea's overflow annex can house up to 300 animals and about 299 of them like to let you know they're there.

Battersea Dogs Home acquired Bell Mead 20 years ago. swapping SWII for a spell in their quilted green-and-red cor-Berkshire - the mongrels and mogs would benefit from less crowding and more exercise. But if today's sojourns tend to be short-term, it's for the best of reasons. A collage of snaps in Bell Mead's hallway is like a directory of former inmates. Beano, Buck, Bonzo, Bonnie, Bacardi - here are dogs looking winsome, dogs cocking an ear, dogs showing how a stint

But these days the slopes are at Bell Mead can be the ticket to a great new life.

Recent arrivals are boused in one block. Two nights ago 11 lurchers and greyhounds checked in from Ireland. Retired working dogs who have been in kennels for a year, they It was originally intended as a stand a better chance of being kind of holiday centre where - re-homed from Bell Mead. In Just around the corner is Floozie, an 18-month-old Dalmatian from Wales, given to the home because her owners were away too much.

We tend to get a lot of adolescent Dalmatians," explains Gail Cavill, the re-homing supervisor. The designer dog can be immature and destructive. "People can't cope with them. But we get families coming here, and the kids stand outside the kennel having tantrums, pointing at the dog and saying I want that one.'

And people sometimes take on more dog than they can chew. Dennis has oodles of charm. But this sweet, gentle Patterdale has been re-homed and returned twice in the two years Bell Mead has known him. He soils the house if left alone for too long. A dog may give you the nod, but the hiography pinned to his kennel will tell you whether be's likely to savage your children and give your cat a nervous breakdown.

Animals book in to Bell Mead for a variety of reasons. Muffet, for instance, was a dog who thought he was a cat. He was rejected by his mother when be was born, and his surrogate mum was a cat who'd recently given birth to kittens. Gail recalls: "We were quite concerned about Muffet so we got him socialising with the other dogs here." There's no knowing what kind of iden-tity crisis he might have suffered in later years, but after a six-week stay at Bell Mead he was judged sane again, and has



Cassie, a young lurcher, was diagnosed with separation anxiety. Her treatment includes long walks in the countryside

Rasper, a Border collie puppy who is irrepressibly active. "He was very, very chase-motivated," says Gail. "But since he's been here he's be-come a lot calmer. We've got the paddock and space, with areas where dogs can go to unwind." Any animal with a serious attitude problem, meanwhile, gets help from the senior be-

viourist, Ruth Yates. "You tend to find the most intelligent dogs are the ones that have the most problems." Ruth says. Take the humungous Kermit, an 18-month-old Staffie cross. "He's very intelligent, a quick learner. But it's been very hard for him to cope with the noise and activity of Battersea. Because he's smart he modified his behaviour into be-

coming naughty - grabbing clothes, being difficult when he was being put away - and that made him difficult to rehome." By devising little tricks for Kermit to perform, Ruth has rechannelled his energy. Stephen, meanwhile (an Alsatian cross) has his own stash of biscuits. If he doesn't go berserk when someone passes his ken-nel, his quiet hehaviour is re-

warded with a crunchy snack. Boredom is a problem in kennels and the managers are always looking for new ideas to keep occupants busy. It could be putting on the radio, or hiding food in toys. Animals need mental as well as physi-cal stimulation. And dogs, especially, demand human company - which can be part of

Cassie, a young lurcher who loves children, suffers separation anxiety. She has been rehoused twice and each time her new owners have given up on her. Left alone she becomes destructive, messes in the house and barks continuously. Game, on the other hand, was a Labrador who arrived from

Battersea with a people phobia. Do animals suffer from depression? "Oh yes. I believe so, absolutely," says Gwen Olivier, head veterinary nurse. "Some may have come from a com-Iortable home where it's been nice and warm, and suddenly they're having to compete with a whole row of kennels for at-tention. Older animals find it difficult to adapt, and are quite anxious about things." Unsettled cats, for instance, can

stop eating, swipe and hiss at anything that goes near them. or, like the rotund nine-year-old Sprout, be simply too shy to sell themselves to would-be owners. Stress can take many forms.

Some dogs endlessly chase their own tails. Others wag with such abandon that they damage the tip. which then needs to be surgically removed. Anxiety can lead to gastric problems, while kennel cough is the bane of animal homes. Dogs particularly vulnerable to respiratory problems are those with squashed-up faces and deep chests. Because Bell Mead is less enclosed than Battersea and has fresh air in ahundance, they tend to re-

cover faster than in town. "The large breeds of dog such as great Danes and Alsatians we like to get exercised on nice green grass," says Gwen. "Here the staff have the time to give them one-to-one attention because Bell Mead's in the country; it's not as busy as Battersea and so they get spe-

But for Bell Mead, as for Battersea, it's all about finding a home. Tired, jaded, stuck in a rut - Battersea's long-stay dogs and cats get new smells, sights and company to arouse their curiosity. It's a chance to conquer their kennel cough, fight their phobia and let their personality shine through.

Battersea Dogs Home starts on BBC1 on 7 December; Battersea Dogs Home', by Robin McGibbon and Bob Long (BBC Worldwide, price £9.99)

The Independent on Sunday A waste Human Rights 50 years on

> Continued from page 1 However, many had expected far more from it, because in Au-gust 1996 Nasa had lined up a team of scientists proclaiming that they had discovered evimeteorite. That news went around the world. The fact that since then, not a single indeports such a viewpoint hasn't

received as much coverage, especially not from Nasa. But Nasa, like a shark, al-

ways keeps moving forward onto the next target. Right now, it is to get a space station built and orbiting the planet, even though there is no conceivable financial justification for doing so. Among Nasa's declared aims for the ISS are "to forge new partnerships with the nations of the world" andsignificantly - to sustain and strengthen the United States' strongest export sector, aerospace technology, which in 1995 exceeded \$33 billion". So it's not

The truth is that there will be no factories in space. Mir's chequered history, including an onboard fire, a collision with a cargo ship and repeated computer problems, demonstrate that space is not, and never will

be, an easy place to live.
It's not a safe place, either. New Scientist magazine recently carried out a series of calculations looking at the odds of something disastrous happening. It turns out that though the chance of a Shuttle blowing up on its launch is only 1 per cent, and of a Russian uncrewed module doing the same just 8 per cent, when you cal-

culate the chances of that remaining true for 33 Shuttle launches and 12 Russian ones, the chance of it all going to plan is just 26.4 per cent - that is. there's a 75 per cent chance of

something blowing up.
The risks from "space junk" hitting the station are equally worrying. Though tiny - per-haps as hig as a piece of grav-el - the particles are moving so fast that they can pack the punch of a car going at 100mph. The risk calculation suggests that over 20 years, there is a 42 per cent chance that some whirling cosmic dervish will

Nasa, however, has not formally analysed the risks involved. New Scientist found: even as the first (Russian) element was launched last

month, a full "probabilistic risk analysis" had not been done. But typical of Nasa's skewed vision of what's important is its concern over the lack of a proper name. Reagan suggested "Freedom": that grated with the Russians, who rejected it. "Unity", the name of the module which will connect the Russian and American components of the station together, has not been taken up as the

Earlier this week, Nasa announced the results of a competition among children (American ones, of course) to suggest a suitable name. Three suggestions were the Dude-ship, the Milky Way Bar Stop and the Totally Rad Space Place. It's hard to know if that means that the station has succeeded in the first part of one of its aims, listed on the Nasa website as "to inspire our children, foster the next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs, and satisfy humanity's ancient need to explore and achieve". But one suspects not.

since found a new owner.

of space

dence of past life on Mars in a pendent scientist has said that the data unequivocally sup-

away in the future w ransistors. Walknee players and ghetto i TOUR ON POUR PACE worth of battery por gage fully capable of Home Service, th gramme, the Thirt Suite Laxembourge .. Johnas all a giri n ner airwaves in the days What I filed she is what I still like sh sim exudes an india

mass, and it's a do Like many of my I stations with 100 per Perhaps I inherited - ther who also own mino, which, as far a she never once had in timen to rising ear witen or ner radio and entertain the reindecionerable shipp and families reports w as if they had been reand Limbbe to get · · · · · · i ie m my bed vas a British agent warden France try radio contact with Lon which was generally

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Cheice, or

... nowaday

ALTHOUGH FTS int technology is no more suphisticated than the me original Roberts 2 long way. As the or provider of easily-ab cackground entertai in a tast-moving wor radio has become all to ali people. You car n to £350 on a single the Sony ICSFW77, available from Dixon 500049 is one), or, for ittle as £14.99, buy a that you can take int shower: the Angelfis

catalogue, 0870 606 6

AN ELECTROLUX rot vacuum cleaner, Erne Race's formica and aluminium chair (rigi a Baygen torch are so the "icons of the cent chosen for display at 29th Century at Olym fair this weekend. So exhibitors from the U Europe will offer term anniques of the future a series of lectures in Paul Reeves on the B Arts and Crafts move (today, 2.30 and 4.30pm Victor Arwas on Deco Arts. from Art Nouves Modernism (today, 6.2 and Mark Haworth-Bo оп Contemporary

Photography (Set 5.30) 20th Century at Olympruns until Sunday 6 D Olympin 2 Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road, London W14, Fr Sat & Sun, 11-7; admis £5, 0171-370 8899 (to be

The retuning of a radio star

The Roberts was the original personal radio. Then came Walkmans. Now the design classic is back on air. By Charlotte Bingham

s a wedding present, we received a brown leather Roberts portable, very much The Thing" back in the early Sixties. Far away in the future were the days of transistors, Walkmen, personal CD players and ghetto blasters - what you took on your picnic then was 4lbs worth of battery-powered hand luggage fully capable of picking up the Home Service, the Light Programme, the Third Programme, Radio Luxembourg and Hilversum, which was all a girl really needed on her airwaves in those pre-silicon days. What I liked about my Roberts is what I still like about it - its design exudes an indisputable cheerfulness, and it's a doddle to tune.

Like many of my sex, I suspect, I am none too good at locating radio stations with 100 per cent accuracy. Perhaps I inherited this from my mother who also owned a Roberts radio, which, as far as I can recall, she never once had in perfect tune. Given to rising early, she would switch on her radio at full volume and entertain the rest of our still slumbering household with long, indecipherable shipping forecasts and farming reports which sounded as if they had been recorded underwater. Unable to get back to sleep, I would lie in my bed and pretend I was a British agent marooned in war-torn France trying to make radio contact with London, a fantasy which was generally interrupted by a set of out-of-time pips played fortissimo as my mother turned up the volume to hear the first news bulletin of the day.

Mercifully, I experienced no such ficulties with our first Roberts, even though you had to twiddle the knobs a bit in order to get the station right on line. But the services were so clearly marked that all you really had to do was find the right wavelength and surf the little squares that said Home or Light, or whatever, until all came clear Once tuned, the reception was faultless and I would either clear away the hreakfast things to the music of Housewife's Choice, or write away



at my desk to the sound of the Above: Charlotte Ringham. Inset: Roberts radios, old (red) and new (yellow)

with us on honeymoon and, natu-Roberts now accompanied us was known in those pre-virus days. rally, as with anyone with whom you everywhere: on picnic, on vacation. Imagine then the horror when Roberts, who became very much under the bedroom window or from outside our house - not so Roberts was lost forever, snatched player as well, then came one you 01709 571722

Since it was a wedding present, part of my baggage. Having been amuse and entertain us should we much at the loss of our well-in-Mr Roberts naturally came away with us ever since our marriage, our be struck down with the 'fin - as it sured motor but at the hijacking of honeymoon, I got overly fond of not to work and to play - even to bed, one night we were woken to the day out on the river. The police lowed. Before you could say: Wow!, 'Love Song' (Buntam). For inforonly my new partner but also of Mr where he would serenade us from sound of our sports car being stolen eventually found the car but Mr they brought out a radio-cassette

poor Mr Koderts, whom I had carelessly left in the car boot after a Sun-bought a Sony of my own. Worse fol-Charlotte Bingham's latest novel is

by a thief with the best of taste. We bought another one at once, rather as you are advised to do after losing a much loved pet. The new Mr Roberts wore a hright red coat and, to all intents and purposes, seemed no different from his predecessor. He was as remorselessly cheerful and just as easy to tune, but somehow we didn't get along quite so well.

It wasn't to do with old fickle fashion, although I suppose he did look a little overweight alongside the new transistorised models - nor was I worried about his limited range. since I rarely listened to anything else other than

Maybe it was all to do with the change in programming which coincid ed with the loss of our original radio. Into the atmosphere went the Home Service and the Light and the Third programmes and in came Radio One and Tony Black-

the three BBC

programmes.

hurn, Radio Two and Jimmy Young, Radio Three and Radio Four, and the sign of the furrowed brow.

Fed up with trying to find something to which I genuinely wanted to listen to. I surfed the dial less and

less and Mr Roberts fell more and programmes my partner was in, broadcasts to which he would have to pre-tune Mr R before leaving for Broadcasting House. Too old for Radio One and too young for Radio Two, I wrote in silence, watched by the muted radio whose once cheerful grille now assumed an expression of sorrow, as if he too mourned the passing of the radio days gone by.

Then the very worst happened -I was unfaithful. A friend arrived at our house, hotfoot back from the Orient, and with him he brought a Sony Walkman. It was love at first sound. Hardly able to believe the evidence of my ears, I rushed ou and

could wear jogging - and swimming - and on horseback Suddenly there were CDs and satellites, and stacking systems and compact sound centres and hi-fis that brought the concert hall into your bedroom, all of which, once programmed, never again needed tuning. A press of the hutton and the world was your audible oyster. The trouble was, I didn't know which button to press.

There were so many on offer . hesides the remote handsets designed to control everything from the hi-fi to the front door. Time and time again, I would be found stand-

ing in front of the television trying to turn it on with the washing machine remote. I couldn't even manage the though it had 24 pre-programmed stations. And the reason why I couldn't manage it was because I didn't know which hutton to press to

turn the whole thing on - which no doubt is why. for my last birthday, my partner gave me another radio, a brand new unstate of the art retro Roherts portable. Mr Roberts III

wears hlue. He also has a different more silent. All I listened to were the face which says very precisely where to find everything from R2 to Virgin. He has little square tabs which, when pressed, give you FM, MW or LW and he even has a hutton for tone and a knob marked Tuning. Otherwise, he looks as cheerful as ever with his golden grille underneath his familiar autograph. He's back in pride of place as well, underneath the bedroom window where he ushers in each new day by waking us with Wogan and putting us to sleep with a bedtime story. Dear Mr Roberts - if ever there was a simple design designed simply for pleasure, you are It.

mation on the Roberts Radio, ring

FIRST CLASS DELIVERIES

THE MOST stylish kitchen is nothing without a sprinkling of designer foodstuffs. Like transforming a sitting-room with the artful use of cushions and a lamp, you can make your kitchen a place in which Delia herself might feel at home by adding a tin of French anchovies and a potted bay tree here, a bottle of estate olive oil and a jar of chutney there. And you can do it all by mail order.





Finned seasoning, top, and the chocolate chess set

Morel Bros. Cobbett & Son has a particularly tempting catalogue. Decorate your dresser with their tins of French fish, elegantly adorned with fine script and a coat of arms (from £1.75 each) and American seasonings eccentrically labelled as Mt Olympus Ruh, Prairie Ruh and Dragon Rub. They cost £4.20 each, worth it for the amusing pictures on the tins (Dragon Ruh shows a dragon hreathing flames beside the Great Wall of China). The wackiest item in the catalogue is a Spanish chess set in dark brown and white chocolate (£5.80). But the ultimate in chic style is the chocolate fondue, which comes in frosted-glass containers and looks like scented candles. Available in six different flavours, they are mouth-watering: "When reheated they will gradually turn into a smooth, glossy liquid into which you can dip fruit or sweet hiscuits...' Best item: fruit chutney in mustard seed oil, £4 Worst item: boring herbal teas from £1.45

FOR KITCHEN gardeners. The Gluttonous Gardener's catalogue is heautifully laid out and full of witty gifts such as "that old chestnut", a box of marrons glaces that comes with a root-wrapped sweetchestnut tree, planting details and recipes, and the Passion Pack, which contains a passion-flower plant, fresh passion-fruits and a hottle of champagne. Best item: the gin drinker's companion, £45 Worst item: Bay watch, £15

Morel Bros, Cobbett & Son. Unit 129, Coldharbour Lane. London SE5 (0171-346 0046) The Gluttonous Gardener. Vitis House, 50 Dickens Street, London SW8 (0171-627 0800) Last ordering date for Christmas delivery is 18 December

AMICIA DE MOUBRAY

Not just a dummy...

... nowadays radios come in fish, handbag and wind-up format. There's even one by Philippe Starck. By Katy Guest

ALTHOUGH ITS integral technology is no more sophisticated than that of the original Roberts, the humble radio set has come a long way. As the only provider of easily-absorbed, background entertainment in a fast-moving world, radio has become all things to all people. You can spend up to £350 on a single set (the Sony ICSFW77, available from Dixons 0990 500049 is one), or, for as little as £14.99, huy a radio that you can take into the shower: the Angelfish from the Save the Children catalogue, 0870 606 6350.

runs until Sunday 6 Dec at

Road, London W14. Fri 11-8,

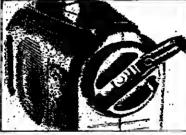
Sat & Sun, 11-7; admission

£5. 0171-370 8899 (to book

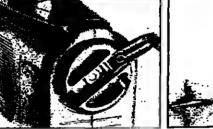
lectures)

Olympia 2 Exhibition

Centre, Hammersmith













content should be tuned to Minimalists would do jazz and discreetly well to invest in one of shipping forecast crackled can never find the right Philippe Starck's Moosk positioned in any designer range, £52 from Alessi batteries. It runs for one through a worn, leather living room. (above left) 01920 444272, or The Bayliss wind-up hour with 2 minutes jacket, however, Roberts machine (far left), £59.99, winding, is environmentally (see article above), who still the Mannequin (far right) friendly and invaluable in manufacture up-to-date, £26, Graham & Green, 0171with solar panel, from quality radios, also produce Splash Communications, areas with no power supply. 727 4594. These exquisite little triumphs of style-over-For those fazed by a replica Fifties machine.

DESIGN NEWS



THE CONRAN Foundation, set up in 1993, is a "living" archive of fin-de-siècle industrial products. Every year it stages an exhibition curated by a individual with a "non-museum"

background. This year it is the photographer David Constantine, a founding director of the Motivation Charitable Trust. Unsurprisingly, his objects include photographic

favourites such as the Olympus LT Zoom Camera, along with a Psion 5 Personal Organiser, a Saracen 2WD Electric Wheelchair and much more. Conran Foundation Collection 1998 runs 4 December-31 January 1999 at the Design Museum, Shad Thames, London SEI, 11.30-6 daily (0171-378 6055)

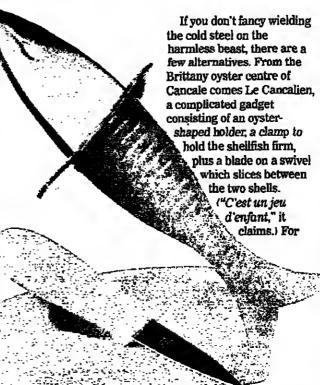
THOSE WHO want to do

more than dream of a white Christmas should head to Mission in London, whose latest exhibition, Carte Blanche, consists of objects in cool shades of pale. Look out for luminous furniture by Maiko Tsutsumi, pod storage systems by Kirsten Jones, and Hive's chic felt notebooks; plus snowy rugs and furniture. Carte Blanche runs until 14 January 1999 at Mission, 45 Hereford Road, London W2.

Oysters – an open and shut case

"BIG CHAP with a small moustache and the sort of eye that can open an oyster at 60 paces." Unless you happen to possess the penetraling glare of Bertie Wooster's sworn foe Roderick Spode, you'll have to use a knife to tackle the placid hivalve. As with every other kitchen utensil. designers have leaped at the chance to develop ever more stylish variations to entice the oyster-fancier. Divertimenti want you to

start shucking with a gorgeously scaled implement (top, right, £19.95), which looks like it too might recently have emerged from the briney. Selfridge's sell a fancy version of the traditional squatbladed French oyster knife (£5.75), while the Conran Shop offer an elegant stiletto to slip into the heart of the shellfish (£8.95).

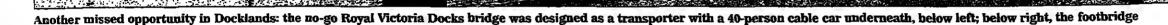


the wrong side of a hundred quid, you can even get an electronic guillotine which promises to hisect the bivalve in an instant,

There is one simple reason why all of the above are superflunus. The irksome business of cleaving oysters splintered shells, bloody fingers and all - has been licked once and for all by a simple French device known as Le Clic Huitre (below, left). It consists of a hasic, long-bladed knife and a plastic oysterholder which resembles a soapdish. Put the oyster in the holder and hold down. insert the knife at the hinge end of the shellfish and Robert est votre oncle.

CHRISTOPHER HIRST

Le Clic Huitre is available from Seasalter Shellfish, Whitstable, Kent (01227 272003) for £5.50, 55p p&p



Philip Meech

A bridge not far enough

The Royal Victoria Dock Bridge, designed by master architect Alex Lifschutz, is the longest in the capital, spanning 360 metres of the Thames. But there is one small problem: it doesn't go anywhere. By Nonie Niesewand

popular Coin Street community bousing and the masterplanner of Waterloo Terminus, Alex Lifschutz is going places fast. The same cannot be said for his bridge. London's newest - and longest - hridge, the Royal Victoria Dock Bridge, has no destination. It starts well amid a boney-and-red-brick Wimpey village called Britannia. Then, after spanning 360 metres of the Thames, the bridge stops just sbort of the shore.

Plans by property developer Excel to build a massive exhibition centre on the north shore went belly-up along with the Asian economy. The bridge ends just a dinghy ride away from dry land because the original plan was to build out from the shore. Now a jetty links the bridge to land but there is absolutely nothing there to make you want to get off. Worse, you can't get onto it. The two lifts up to the bridge 14 metres above travel up and down with nobody in them. Maintenance men do keep them going, but only to stop them seizing

Excel's plan was not the only one to be shelved. The bridge was built 14 metres high to allow tall ships from a proposed marina to sail silently beneath: that was scuppered when the flight path into London City airport bit into the zone.

At least the bridge is bandsome. Lifschutz. with engineer Matthew Wells of Techniker, won a competition in 1994 by London Docklands Development Corporation, which was redeveloping the 162 hectares of Royal Docks. They met all the technical requirements of the brief with-

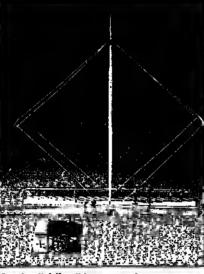
he young architect of the In a parabolic arch. Clad in iroko wood with weathered silver, topped with masts rigged like yachts, ending in shapely prows and sterns, the boat imagery is followed in the upturned steel boat shapes all along its spine. Doubling as seats on the footbridge, they also strengthen the bridge, which has to run a cable car along its underbelly.

The cable car track to shuttle 40 people backwards and forwards above the water is there, but the scheme is no longer on track. But why would anyone want to spend £500,000 to make their £4.5m bridge fully operative with the cable car when it leads nowhere?

"I judge a good bridge by the experience of crossing it, the non-slip of timbered cladding underneath." Alex Lifschutz is quietly optimistic that one day the residents and visitors will not only leg it across the bridge but watch regattas from it.

He may just be lucky. BURA, the British Urban Regeneration Authority, which took their members on a tour of showpiece urban regenerative schemes in the London borough of Newham, started out from the Royal Victoria footbridge.

Standing on the bridge on a perishingly cold day, with a view of the Dome to the west and City airport to the east, both dwarfed by the vast mudflats and great basin of water, you can see what a daunting task faced London Docklands Development Corporation back in 1992 when they published their development plan for the Royal Docks. Over the years they drained areas, reclaimed land and landscaped or built on it, built London City airport, spent £350m on dual carriageways and the Docklands Light Railway, and made the plans



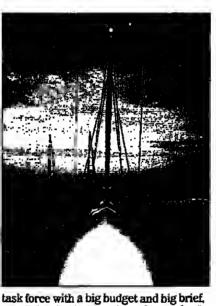
for the Jubilee Line extension.

Eric Sorenson, the former chief executive of LDDC, didn't just want regeneration; he wanted architectural landmarks. He is optimistic that the whole Docklands enterprise will one day be complete.

"Would I have changed the way we approached the development at Royal Victoria Docks? Not much. It was an urban village scheme, genuinely mixed, with a primary school early on.

"The Thames Barrier Park on formerly contaminated land is underway with a Barretts estate next to one of London's unsung attributes, the Thames Barrier itself. All the signs are still that the project is mak-

ing headway in the market." LDDC, the first urban regeneration



was disbanded last year. Now the new landlords are England's biggest and most powerful land and property developer, English Partnerships. Financed by the Government to bring derelict, vacant and underused land and buildings into life in

partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, they have 3,200 Anthony Dunnett, the chief executive

officer at English Partnerships, uses the fashionable jargon of urban regenerators everywhere, "top-down, bottom-up". Ideas taken at the top filter down to meet needs from the local community, and are made to happen somewhere in the middle. "Top-driven projects turn into white

elephants," Anthony Dunnett says.

If ever a white elephant masqueraded as a bridge it is at the Royal Victoria Docks, hut Dunnett says that LDDC "made a bold statement with their essential spine, the infrastructure". Having dallied for 18 months, English Partnerships now have a team responsible for the Royal Docks. "We have a master plan," says Dunnett. "It is essential to create living communities. For example, we know we need more single dwellings. Gay households, singles leaving bome, widows and widowers."

If he wants homes in Docklands, be must be really worried about the consortium building the twee, £250m Millennium Village project in Greenwich.

The village is supposed to have 1,400 nomes, but plans for the first 80 only went Pocks the way forward for Docklands before Greenwich Council's planning committee last night. So when the village pens alongside the Dome on 31 December 1999, there will only be a handful of residents to see the fireworks.

Greenwich Council has an agreement that 25 per cent of the site will be affordable housing, but their insistence that most of it is two-storey with private gardens rather than clustered around communal gardens has actually reduced that figure to 21 per cent.

English Partnerships is putting a brave face on the difficulties. "Already we bave a waiting list for them and not a stone has been laid," claims Glenn Baxter, the media and marketing executive for Millennium Village and English Partnerships.

Yet no contract has been signed with the consortium - the architect Ralph Erskine, architects Hunt Thompson Associates,

the developer Countryside Properties and builder Taylor Woodrow. Rows over contamination of the old gasworks site are said to be slowing it down.

English Partnerships, which has spent £180m cleaning up the site, claims that the least contaminated area on the peninsula is the housing area, yet they admit that not all the toxic material from the old gasworks was removed from the site. Contaminated material locked underground was capped.

Now a marker warns contractors about entering a contaminated area when they sink foundations or pipework underground. By Christmas, the deal should be signed and sealed.

So is the Britannia estate at Royal even though there is no way onto the Docklands Light Railway until the bridge is opened? With just 250 Wimpey homes with bolt-on portieos and pediments and its own waterfront net-curtained crescent, Newham councillors claim the estate is a good mixed-use residential area with a junior school, shops and housing association accommodation. But will that make it a community?

People want to live in towns, not in suburbia and not in the country. But for too many people, urban regeneration means lonely bigh-rise estates, vandalism, boarded up factories and warehouses, soulless shopping and brutal office blocks. Even in areas where millions of pounds have been spent, it can mean a cement spaghetti junction ending in a brick wall. Or in a bridge that goes nowhere. For the residents of Britannia there is still no escape.

Scotland the brave

The new Museum of Scotland was opened on Monday - St Andrew's Day The story of a triumphant end to 25 years of political infighting. Westminster domination and internal divisions is told by Charles McKean

SO MANY new museums and art galleries have opened in the last 20 years that you can buy comparative coffee-table books about them. They have indeed become the secular churches and cathedrals of the late 20th century. Few, however, have had their objects ecumenically and ceremonially blessed in church in front of the largest gathering of crafts, trades and professions for 200 years.

Last Sunday, the inauguration of the Museum of Scotland took place in the awesome and dignified sepulchre of St Giles in Edinturgh. Patently, the new museum, in Scots' eyes at least, was not just yet another museum. The Museum of Scotland, the 1991 winning design of one of the largest and most controversial of international competitions, may be the finest Scottish huilding of the

The museum's director, Mark Jones, described the project as completing "unfinisted husiness". Scotland began to accumulate its appropriate national cultural institutions during the Enlightenment but, until now, never had a purposeouilt structure to contain the breadth of objects required to rep-

coined in 1981, what began as a simple matter of a new title for the Scottish collections acquired weightier overtones. The idea swelled over the decade. Just two years later, the "presentation of distinctive or outstanding aspects of the nation's culture" had become a "sanctuary of national pride".

Almost inevitably a few years later, the ambition arose for the huilding to be a "symbol of national identity". By the time of the architectural competition in 1991 - long before Braveheart - Magnus Magnusson had defined its purpose as reflecting the nation's place in the wider world. No surprise, therefore, that there was pressure to open it on St Andrew's Day.

The National Museums of Scotland had been created from two, previously separate museums. The Royal Scottisti Museum (RSM) in Chambers Street and the Museum of Antiquities in Queen Street tad both been acknowledged to be sbort of space and requiring extensions, or a new building, first in 1929 and then in 1951. Expansive plans were gradually whittled away until both the later equally determinedly abresent its history. Once the concept were forced to negotiate for shared stracted from Scottish precedent.

of the Museum of Scotland was use of a new site next to the RSM. Four schemes were developed and abandoned. The conflict could be symbolised by the RSM's desire for a planetarium and the Antiquities desire for a medieval hall. Natural incompatibilities were exacerbated by the jockeying for space; the project was abandoned after 20 years.

A committee set up by the gov-ernment recommended separate museums on separate sites but the government rejected that and merged the two museums, selected the current site but sold half of it. Lord Bute was appointed to chair the merger, and then the trustees of the new institution. For reasons of unity, the new building could only be an extension of the RSM, rather than have its own identity.

The museum that opened on Monday is no longer an extension. It has its own heraldic entrance through a prominent drum tower. All the non-Scottish displays originally required in the competition have been excised. The scale and materials (stone) are similar between the old and new museums, tut the former is determinedly Venetian and

Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth won the competition to design the museum with its brilliant plan, its empathy with the site and its response to the idea of Scotland and its objects. "Architecture from the past touches the heart. The next step is how to continue it," they said.

Inspired by the strength of the collections, it had adorned its competition drawings with strategically located icons, and with references to historic Scots precedents, notably the curtain wall castles of the Gaeltachd. The plan of the huilding bears a close metaphorical resemhlance to those of Duntrune, Dunstaffnage, Dunollie, Mingarry and Tioram. The curtain wall enfolds the site in glowing, iron-stained sheets of Clashach sandstone; the central courtyard - Hawthornden Court - is visually roofed hy sky and scudding clouds, and the tower is the main

stack of galleries at the back.
The architecture, inspired equally by Le Corbusier and Mackintosh, has an element entirely of its own an almost "look, no hands" apparent weightlessness and a desire to eradicate technology save where it contributes to the museum's message. It conveys the resonance of Lord Bute, who demanded a build-



Benson & Forsyth's new museum on Chambers Street, Edinburgh

Scottisti architectural history with-

out copying or compromising the late-20th-century design. From the street there is no inkling of the richness within. White, top-lit volumes connect tight, low spaces with painted ceilings, cavernous light wells, sculptured doorways and lintels; round every corner there is either a spatial or an iconic surprise. Wherever you walk in this building you are offered unexpected but scrupulously controlled

To achieve a building of this quality represents an unusual act of patronage. The momentum came from

glimpses of views of the outside.

ing of "remark and excellence". Even more significant was his belief that the huilding "should animate what it contains". So the museum was to be site-specific and objectspecific, not a museum of collections

but one of narratives about Scotland. Bute lay about the Secretaries of State who refused to fund the extension. Before his death in 1993, he set in motion the extraordinary achievement of raising almost £18m from the private sector and the lottery to fund the fitting out. His team hreasted the resignation of the Prince of Wales in 1991 and Lord Bute's successor, Robert Smith, had to snatch the project from

imminent political cancellation only

a few years later. The huilding - which despite its opening on Monday is still not complete - is admired by Enric Miralles. tbe Catalan architect of the new Scottish parliament, whose site is half a mile away. He admires it for its quality, and the way that it seems to metamorphose according to the changing light and weather. In so doing, the Scottishness of this mternational huilding is manifest.

Charles McKean, professor of Scottish orchitectural history at the University of Dundee, is writing the

Calm down

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Pinpoint the panic button

Calm down - anxiety attacks are not a form of hysteria, and their cause is treatable. By Sanjida O'Connell

anic attacks are seen as a particularly modern disease, a product of our stress-filled culture and bectic work schedules. Recent studies have shown that panic is not purely an hysterical overreaction to modern living but is caused by a brain abnormality which can be treated with Prozac-like drugs.

A typical panic attack is when you start to shake, sweat, feel nauseous pump faster. These attacks can appear for no apparent reason, but if a person has more than one attack a week for over three weeks, they may be suffering from panic disorder. Often there is no recognisable trigger, but once someone has started having panic attacks, they may become linked to specific situations, such as travelling on the train or public speaking.

One in 10 people will have an attack at some point in their lives, but in about one in 50 people this will develop into a panic disorder. More women than men suffer from panic attacks, and the disorder is most prevalent in young people aged between 25 to 34.

One woman with agoraphobia had to receive special permission to marry at home

Professor David Nutt. from the Psychopharmacology Department at Bristol University, helieves that older people suffer less because their brains are less active. "In your twenties, your hrain is at its most plastic and reactive," he says.

There are other contributing factors to the youthful nature of panic attacks. "People in their twenties are beginning to leave home, they're more isolated, they are facing adult life for the first time: it's a time when there's maximum pressure on them. and they no longer have the support of their families."

Although the term panic origi-Greek god, Pan, who could alleged- and, as a result, they often feel ly strike terror into the heart of man tense, irritable and can't sleep. and beast alike, and loved to make strange sounds in the night, panic disorder is a modern disease.

This is partly because the condition has only been treated seriously during the last 20 years, but it may he on the increase due to our mod-An lifestyle, where we are surrounded by crowded and over-bright amounts of this chemical.

environments such as supermarkets and windowless office blocks. One theory is that an overload of sensory stimulation may trigger panic attacks; in addition, what many people are frightened of is not being able to escape.

Prof Nutt believes that panic disorders are caused by an over-production of chemicals in the brain that are designed to elicit a fight or flight response in the presence of danger. Normally a quick physical and dizzy, and your heart begins to and emotional response to what might be a life-threatening situation is beneficial in evolutionary terms.

In our society women are particularly susceptible to panic. This may be because women often suffer from multiple stresses, such as trying to work and bring up a child, hut the original biological reason could be linked to the hormone oestrogen. The evidence for this claim comes from studies of postmenopausal women who were given oestrogen during hormone replacement treatment and who started to suffer from panic attacks. either for the first time, or for the first time since the menopause.

"Oestrogen may turn on panic." says Prof Nutt, arguing that this link between oestrogen and panic could have evolved for a reason. "Young women who are reproductively active may be more prone to pay attention and show anxiety around children, which is advantageous."

There are several different kinds of anxiety caused by panic. One patient, who suffered from agoraphohia, the fear of open spaces, had to receive special permission to get married at home since she bad been unable to leave the house for eight years. Many of us will have experienced social phobia to some extent - anxiety in social situations when all the attention is focused on oneself, such as public speaking. A social phobic finds panic-inducing situations worse when another person is with them; in a restaurant he or sbe will sit at the side or the back, whereas someone with panic disorder sits near the door.

Another kind is GAD, general arraiety disorder. This is chronic anxiety about things that, to a non-sufferer, seem trivial - being late for appointments, or not finishing homework. To the sufferer these

However, until now it was not known why some people suffer from any of these kinds of panic disorder. Initially researchers thought that a chemical produced in the brain triggered panic attacks, and that people who suffer from panic disorder produce excessive



James Stewart in Hitchcock's 'Vertigo': fear of heights is just one of the many kinds of anxiety caused by panic

that it made them worse. Flumazetimes their most severe to date.

acts as a natural calming chemical. suppressing feelings of panic reducing GABA increases anxiety: lobes and the orbitofrontal cortex.

gave patients a drug, Flumazenil, to GABA system might be malfunc- not hind with GABA efficiently. block the chemical, but found out tioning in pabients who are prone to panic. Together with Drs Andrea might be correct: people who are nil has no effect on people who are Malizia and Caroline Bell, also from not prone to panic, yet sufferers ex- Bristol University, and a team of perience extreme attacks, some- researchers from Hammersmith Hospital, he took PET scans of At the same time, a drug called patients who had been given Clonazenam was discovered - this Flumazenil. What these brain scans suppressed panic attacks and was showed was that those people who known to work on the GABA system. suffered from panic attacks had ab-GABA is gamma-butyric acid, which normal GABA receptors, especially in parts of the brain associated

with anxiety such as the temporal

Prof Nutt and his colleagues Nutt's hypothesis was that the The receptors that were there did

prone to panic do not have fully functioning GABA receptors, either because they were born that way - and evidence from animals shows that those which have altered GABA receptors are more anxious - or they have induced this brain state themselves. Alcohol, for example, initially increases GABA, but once drinking ceases, GABA release is inhibited.

Stress also decreases GABA. Nutt and Bell are now working on

a range of drugs to treat panic disorders. Like Prozac, these drugs in-Prof Nutt's theory looks as if it crease the brain's natural levels of serotonin. The two most effective drugs tested so far are Paraoxetine and Citalopram. Work that is currently underway suggests that regulating serotonin is important, hut Prof Nutt is unsure whether GABA is affected by the drugs themselves, or as a result of the altered amounts of serotonin. Either way, it looks as if the study of panic may finally become a respectable science and those people who suffer from panic attacks can be helped.

UPDATE

FARMERS IN India have destroyed a plot of genetically engineered cotton by uprooting and hurning it, in what they called "a message to all those who have invested in Monsanto to take their money and get out". The cotton, resistant to bollworm and produced by the US biotech giant, was in one of 40 locabons around India where it is being tested to check for escape of pollen. An official for the Indian Department of Biotechnology said the farmers' action was unwarranted: "The trials posed no bio-safety concern," he told Nature magazine. Transgenic potatoes, tomatoes, cauliflowers and tobacco with bollwormresistant genes are also in trials.

A DRUG to control epilepsy. which bas also shown promise in treating cocaine addiction, could belp smokers as well, according to a team from Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York. Experiments on animals sbowed that the drug - gamma vinyl-GABA, or GVG - reduces the effect of nicotine on the brain by slowing the production of dopamine, the neurotransmitter central to drug addiction. GVG blocked dopamine's effects for up to 12 bours. "Nicotine doubles the hrain's dopamine level. sending a rusb of pleasure and a signal that you should smoke again," said Stephen Dewey, a neuroanatomist. "But an appropriate dose of GVG taken before nicotine exposure can completely block nicotine's effects." The work was reported in the journal Synapse.

THE REASON you have not seen many pictures or data recently from the Galileo spacecraft, currently orbiting Jupiter's moon Europa, is that it has gone into its self-protective "safe" mode during two of its three flyhys of the icy body. Scientists at Nasa are now working on a software fix for the problem, which they think is caused by increased radiation as it comes close to Juniter, Galileo. launched in 1989, has already received 50 per cent more radiation than it is designed for.

A HUGE extinct volcano could be hidden under the west Antarctic ice sheet, suggest American scientists. They say they have found a "caldera" - the rock formation created by the collapse of a volcano's central regions into the empty magma chamber after an eruption. New Scientist reports that the caldera is about 70km across. and probably erupted "within the past 20 million years". If confirmed, it would be one of the world's largest extinct volcanoes. There is no danger of its returning to life, scientists say.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN the ways artists and the rest of us view the world have been detected by scientists investigating the hrain activity of people who were asked to sketch faces while lying in a magnetic resonance imaging machine. The scanner which measures blood flow in different areas of the brain, can accurately monitor the activity levels. Most of the cerebral activity of the nonartists was at the back of the brain, in the area that deals with visual processing, according to Bob Solso of the University of Nevada, in Reno. But in the case of Humphrey Ocean, a British portrait painter, the activity was centred on the right, frontal region, which is usually associated with higher thought processes, reports New Scientist. "It appears the artist is 'thinking' the painting as much as he is 'seeing' the painting." Dr Solso said.

IF THE euro ever makes an appearance in Britain, the Royal Mint should make every effort to avoid making the coins out of zinc. A study in the US, where some one-cent coins are made of zine coated in copper, bas found that zinc-based coins can cause stomach ulcers in children who swallow them. Coins made from copper or nickel generally pass through the digestive system untouched, but doctors at Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina, found that a two-year-old boy suffered severe problems after a coin he had swallowed began to dissolve in his stomach. After he complained of pain, the doctors took X-rays and detected a metal disc full of holes. It was a 1989 coin that he had swallowed four days earlier.

TECHNOQUEST

Q How strong is an ant? Ants can carry up to 50 times their own body weight on their backs, and their pincers can grip something 1,400 times their weight. By contrast, even the strongest bumans can lift only a few times their own weight.

Q How does the brain work? The brain is far more complex than even the higgest supercomputers and there is still a lot we don't know about it. An average brain weighs 3lb (1.4kg) and contains about 100 billion nerve cells - about the same number as there are stars in the Milky Way. Each nerve cell has between 1,000 and 10,000 connections with other nerve cells, which are mediated by special chemicals. The number and pattern of connections in use at any one time depends on what we are doing. After the age of 20, our hrains lose about 0.03 ounces (1 gram) in weight per year as nerve cells die and are not replaced. Luckily, some nerve cells duplicate tasks - so we don't lose function at once.

Q How do we hear sound

The outer ear collects sounds which have been carried as pressure waves in the air. These waves make the eardrum (or tympanum) vibrate. Three small bones connected to the eardrum, called the ossicles, amplify the vibrations and pass them on to the cochlea. The cochlea looks like a snail and is filled with liquid and lined by super-sensitive hairs. When vibrations hit the cochlea, the liquid inside starts to move, causing some of the hairs to sway. The movement of the hairs activates nerves attached

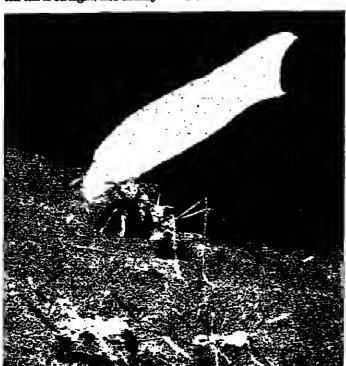
to their bases, sending electrical signals to the hrain where they are decoded into voice patterns, music and so on.

Q What is the smallest bird? The bee bummingbird, Mellisuga helenau, of Cuba and the Isle of Pines, measures about 2.5 inches long (57mm), half of which is taken up by the hill and tail, and weighs 0.05 ounces (1.6 grams). The females are slightly larger.

Q Why do the tails of comets look curved? Comets in fact have two tails ions, formed from charged particles forced off the "dirty snowball" of the surface, and dust, released as the ice melts on the approach to the Sun. The ion tail is straight, and usually

points away from the Sun. It is the dust tail that is curved. The particles that comprise it vary in size and velocity of ejection. The smaller ones, about a micron in size, experience the additional effects of radiation pressure, a repulsive force that can change the particle's orbit around the Sun. Rather than being part of the main body of the comet, they are falling independently with their own momentum. The effect is that dust particles making up the tail are moving in different orbits, all similar to the comet's, but subtly different enough to give the characteristic curve.

Visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at http://www.sciencenet.org.uk Questions and answers by Diala-Scientist on 0345 600444



Ants can carry up to 50 times their own body weight

THE TRUTH ABOUT... SYSTEMATICS

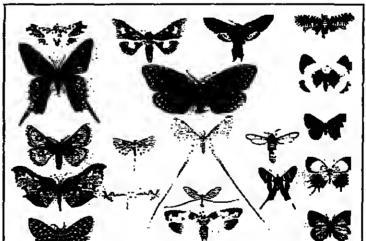
CONSIDER THIS: about 10 per cent of all the species that have ever lived since life on Earth began nearly 4 billion years ago are alive today. Out of the estimated 13 million species existing now, only 1.7 million are known to science.

The rate at which species are becoming extinct owing to human activity on the planet is between 1,000 and 10,000 times greater than the average extinction rates it bas experienced over the past hundreds of millions of years. Life on Earth is dying out faster

than we can record it. Up to 10 per cent of the species of animals and plants alive today will be history within the next quarter-century. Most of these will become extinct without ever having been described and given names. To quote Edward O Wilson, the great evolubonary hiologist, who says it is imperative to finish mapping the biosphere: "The most compelling reason for the broadening of goals is that, unlike the rest of science, the study of hiodiversity has a time limit."

Systematics is the name given to the field of hiology devoted to discovering describing naming and classifying organisms, whether they are living, or extinct fossils. "Without taxonomy to give shape to the to put them together, the house of the report says. biological science is a meaningless jumble," according to Robert May, who has made a study of the world's biodiversity.

other about the diversity of life on in north Africa. Earth," says the UK Systematics Forum, a group representing the triggered a £50m eradication pro-



Moths, hutterflies and other insects are rapidly dying out NHM

leading British players in the field. gramme to stop the pest gaining a The Natural History Museum in London, which has one of the most extensive collections of animals and plants in the world, argues the case for spending time and money on identifying new species in a report, The Web of Life, which is published this week. "The crucial message that we all depend on a healthy, functioning natural environment has hricks, and systematics to tell us how received near-universal support,"

One of the best examples of how systematics can be of immense the distinguished Oxford biologist practical value occurred 10 years ago when the museum was asked to identify the larva of a fly. It turned Systematics - the naming of out to be the New World screwworm, animals and plants - may sound a serious pest in America because boring, but it is essenbal for learn- of its habit of hurrowing into the skin ing about how living organisms of livestock. What made this identirelate to one another "By devising fication so important was that the a single agreed system of scientific specimen in question had come names, it enables people around the from Libya, and was the first docuworld to communicate with each mented case of the insect appearing

The £50 test to Identify the worm

foothold on the African continent. "Although the campaign appeared costly, an independent economic assessment of the costs and benefits of the eradication campaign estimated the return on investment to be in the region of 50:1 for north Africa alone," the museum says.

Mary Gibby, associate keeper of hotany at the museum and a member of the UK Systematics Forum, said that the screwworm story is a perfect illustration of the necessity of investing in systematics. There are also untold practical benefits for discovering new medicines and drugs from unknown species of plants and microorganisms, she adds.

The other important aspect, she points out, is conservation. Since 1992, 70 new species of lichen and more than 100 species of parasitic wasp new to Britain have been recorded. "You've got to identify what you've got before you can work out how to protect it." Dr Gibby says.

STEVE CONNOR | CHARLES ARTHUR/STEVE CONNOR

THEINDEDENDENTA

Bright lights, big city

New York is home to a growing pack of British film-makers. Who don't talk to each other. By Alissa Quart

Cassavetes and Jarmusch, there's a group of young British film-makers forsaking home - and LA - for Manhattan. These documentarians, producers and editors are collectively marinating in Manhattan life, and also collectively avoiding each other.

The producer Sarah Teale's eyes glitter when describing the ravages of a notorious psychiatric hospital in lower Manhattan, called Bellevue. Yesterday, we filmed a woman breaking a glass showcase, screaming, in order to steal a photo of Clinton," she says. The work, for the cable channel HBO, complements her other documentary projects for Channel 4 and the BBC.

"A quite beautiful ballet dancer was standing around and I asked him what he was doing. He said: 'Stretching.' He had just gone totally mad in the past year. I've seen incredibly scary, horrible things at Bellevue. I like film-making when it scares me," There was a problem, though, with the gritty verite. It turned out that another British filmmaker, Nicholas Barker, had already used one of the Bellevue

rawn to the New Teale's project. Before being insti-York of Scorsese, tutionalised, the patient was one of the four protagonists in Barker's Unmade Beds. The fictional documentary is a cruel look at these singles. but it takes a darkly adoring view of its fifth protagonist - Manhattan

But it's not just the call of the

naked city, with its "freaks, fairies and bad people", that keeps the expatriates here. Most of the exiles see their decision to move to New York as an economic one. "You can survive on television documentaries here, whereas in Britain you can starve to death waiting for a phone call," says Susan Brand. She arrived in New York a year and a half ago from her life as a television producer and editor in London. She was escaping, she said, "decades of European melancholy". Soon, Brand recognised that her under-appreciated National Film School and BBC experience made her an excellent joh candidate for US cable channels. "However unpleasant working at the BBC was for me and others, it's very prestigious, and the credentials helped me get work," she says.

Other immigrants work on feature film crews, such as an East End-born editor who in his off hours films his own science-fiction Westpatients under consideration for ern based on the Book of Revelation.



Still others pick up odd jobs, such as managing huildings, or gardening, just so that they can survive and film

in New York city. David Evans worked as a producer while labouring for five years on a documentary about the Lower East Side's community gardens, tracing them through a year when many were being destroyed hy the city to sell the sites or build housing. His film, Dirt, Is a curious mixture of verité and immaculate, Peter Greenaway-esque formalism. Schoolchildren frolic with ladybirds; squatters dig at the concrete with pickaxes; a man fertilises his garden with his own faeces.

Evans screened his documentary

in a Lower East Side storehouse of "alternative transportation" bicycle cabs. Though America's Green Party is still a mere seedling, it seemed alive and well here. Evans, who studied phenomenology at Oxford before writing his first American screenplay, "a sex romp featuring Queen Elizabeth's astronomer", gave the loamy crowd a slight sneer.

This is the great glory of America. Anyone who really wants to can make a film. I identified with these disenfranchised gardeners and I made a film about them. I see this film as marking a life change, as well I've said goodbye to all the 18thcentury malarkey I was encrusted

Teale also feels that working in New York has helped her career: "I'd never have started my own production company, as a woman, in London." She says she could not have got her latest film off the ground at home. "Legally, they would never let us film extensively in a mental hospital," she says. "If anyone sees this documentary in Britain, they'll never believe that's really how it is." Teale and others see New York as imbued with drama, but also as a "friendlier" place. "It took years for the man at the corner shop to say 'Hello' in Lon-

don. Here, the deli guy and I say 'Hello' every day. People are far less ironic in New York," she marvels. Brand is not oblivious to the dif-

ficulties facing America mentary film-makers who can seem "pretty bitter an...

from trying to scrape together funding from private foundations. Evans says that making his film has been an endless struggle of patching funding together.

Clearly, most British film immigrants try their best to avoid the financial woes of independent filmmaking: there are more in Los Angeles than in New York, Boston and Philadelphia combined. They choose to live as close as possible to the famous film actors, extremely well paid animators and leading directors. Put those who move to New York are looking for a piece of

the city's soiled authenticity - or a deal with HBO. One film maker says he was obsessed with Thati Driver, and knew that he wanted to stay in New York and work after he walked around the city's largest hus terminal and saw that it shared that Seventies masterpiece's "hallucinatory quality". "It was like a war zone." he says with delight. "Threat-

ening and cinematic. While these film-makers may be seeking deshabillé, even violent, urban imagery, one thing they are certainly not looking for is each other. "I went to a film screening here full of Brits, an ex-pat old-school crowd calling each other 'George'."

FAX: 0171 293 2505

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The hottest show in town reaches boiling point

meringly sleazy, thrillingly heartless smash'n'grab on truth, justice and the American way is still the hottest show in town, but it just got better.

revival focuses upon the cynical yet startlingly contemporary alliance between criminal guilt and glamour. as two "merry murderesses" of the Cook County Jail court celebrity, as it were, and walk free. Dressed in what looks like a cross between Donna Karan eveningwear and upmarket underwear, a new cast struts its stuff and paws the ground with all the seductive hauteur of a pack of lynxes on heat.

Dripping sex and decadence, the

TEL: 0171 293 2222

SOMETHING extraordinary has entire show is a giant come-on, but happened to Chicogo. This shim-where the original company merely dazzled, the newcomers reveal previously hidden depths. A year ago, this came across as a cynical production of a hrilliantly cynical has a heart of darkness.

The secret is in the casting. Last year, it was all star turns. Now we are seeing a properly told story. Ute Lemper attacked the role of Velma like a whirling dervish. With cheekbones you could hang your wardrobe on and legs that went on for days, her sheer force threw you back into your seat. But after 10 minutes, you were dying for someone to turn her volume down. She seemed pathologically unable to use understatement.

MUSICAL CHICAGO

AOELPHI THEATRE LONDON

Amazonian Nicola Hughes majors in irony. She is deliciously incongruous as she switches between sneering grandeur and comic disingenuousness. There is now much more going on than just raging jealousy at the arrival of Roxie, the latest notorious killer-on-the-make.

Her voice pumps out John Kander's music and she also fleshes out Fred Ebb's tremendous, tart lyrics. There is little dialogue in the show's lean, mean structure hut what is there has to work, and it now does, hig time. Hughes hlessedly plants gags with wonderful aplomb. bowler and kicking up her heels, she is sensational. In her magnetic solo, she loses herself in a fantasy of ego, This is not just a performance, it is a character, and much funnier.

Clarke Peters is sublimely relaxed as the shyster lawyer, running the sham trial with ease or soft-shoeing it through Ann Reinking's Fosseinspired choreography.

Dance, of course, is the core element of Chicago, dramatising and dictating the tone and temperature of the entire show. When it was announced that Maria Friedman was taking over as Roxie, the hig question was: could she dance it? No worries. Snapping the hrim of her

CLASSIFIED

humming ecstatically to herself, and her arousal fills the theatre. Her Diane Langton is on fine snarling voice shimmers breathily and her thrillingly made flesh.

Better still is the scene in which she meets her husband - beautifully played by Peter Davison - after she is released. In her moment of triumph she has been abandoned by the press. Her eyes widen in the darkness and her voice cracks as she whispers: "They didn't even want my picture." A tiny moment, but shockingly touching. You thought you knew Chicago? Look again.



Legal Notices Legal Notices Mobility **Gifts** Charities ALEXANDER BOUSE ASILETT, Frederick William Arthur Asket late of Ipowich, Saffolk dued there on 21st August 1947 BARRINGTON, Gentrude May Berringto late of Barrer, Hertforthaue dued there on 7th May 1998 BEALT. See 1998 The Insolvency Act 1986 PENTACTIVE LIMITED EVENTIDE HIIME - R20724 INDEPENDENCE Ref. FK-7697-CD1Lths)
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of make a Scheme for this charity NOTICE IS HERBEY GIVEN pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act 1966 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 14th December 1999 at a Character London. opp us nature intended IF YOU'RE BLIND, tram the farm to your doo deal there on 7th May 1993

BEALL, Percival Beall
late of Southwark, Unidon SE16
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BRUNELLE otherwise BRESLOF formerley E
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late of Bethnal Green, London E2
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on 1eth September 1998

FRASER, Hugh Hector Fraser
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that there is 13th March 1998
GOODWIN, William Richard Goodwin IA Scheme is a logal document made by the Charty Commission to replace, amend or add to the trests A RADIO MEANS THE will be level on 14th December 1998 at 4 Charterhouse Square, forefore ECIM 68th at 1200 ocor for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the taid Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER CRYSN that Mainter Raymond Dorington, FPA. of Propleton & Appletoy, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, ECIM, 68th is appointed to act as the qualified insolvency. Practitioneer pursuant to Section 90/20tal of the said Act who will lumish creditors, five of charge, with such information concerning the Company's allaris as they may reasonably require.

Dated his 27th day of November 1999. QUALITY - VALUE - SERVICE **BRITISH DESIGNED & BUILT** of a charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: 27 Taristrick Square, London WC1H 9HH, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Charity Commission, St. Afban's House, 5760 Haymarket, London SW1Y SAVE (Estate about £80,000 YOUR DONATION COULD MAKE OUR 70th ANNIVERSARY YEAR duel there in 13th March 1998
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late of New Barnet, Herifordshire
duel there on 7th July 1948
JOLLANDS, Walter Jollands
Late of Sheltfield, Swith Yorkshire
died at Rotherham, South Yorkshire
on 7th October 1997
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Dept. IND1, FREEPOST
Chatham, Kent ME4 4BR FREE HOME TRIAL INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 HORIZON MOBILITY Charities Chatham, Kent ME4 4BR The Really Good Food THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 Company Ltd NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Registered Charity Number: 211849 CRAFTWORLD TRADING **ଟ 0800 018 2603** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the fusoivency Act 1986 that a Maximg of Creditors of the fusoivency Act 1986 that a Maximg of Creditors of the above part of the fusoivency Act 1986 that a The Quality Scotic Corner Hotel, Junction Ali/A66, near Darlington OLIO 6NR, on 10th December 1998 at 2.15pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Cork Golfy, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leads LSI 4JP on the two business days preocching the date of the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors alterding in person) custor their processes are received at Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leads LSI 4JP, no later than midday on the business day preceding the date of the meeting must deater than midday on the business day preceding the date of the meeting the date of the meeting the date of the meeting than midday on the business day preceding the date of the meeting the meeting than midday on the business day preceding the date of the meeting CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS I would like to help with a donation of: (Not Just a British MANUFACTURER REGISTERED NUMBER: 3200452 REGISTERED NUMBER: 3200452
Pursuant to Section Affolt of The Insolvency
Act 1986 and Rule 1.2 of The Insolvency
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Crant Thomson House, Melton Street,
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Dieted 38 November 1998 Please charge my Debit/Credit card died there on 18th October 1996 died there on 18th October 1996 SELBSY, William Selby late of Hallists, West Yorkshire died there on 2nd October 1996 SHARP, Doris Hettie Sharp otherwise late of Kingston upon Thuntes, Surrey died there on 19th September 1998 SHUCKISMITH user Bealington, Mary late of Lincoln, Lincolnshire died there on 10th August 1998 SOAMES, Peter Soumes late of Colcivorier, Esser died there on 23rd June 1997 STOREY, John Storey late of Reading, Berkshire died an Newtonie, Staffornshire died an Newtonie, Staffornshire died an Newtonie Staffornshire on 21 Mary 1998. re on 13th October 1946 need our love and practical support, not (Estate about £5.30) just today but every day. Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having. Stress Relief Estate about 1 (81)0 Donations urgently needed by Address Dated 30 November 1998 SCOTT BAILNES AND MICHAEL GERBARD Joint Administrative Receivers (Estate about 16,000) The British Kidney Patient Association Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ (Estate about £8,000) Reg. Charity No. 270288 THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS FROG SECURITY LIMITED STREFMENKI, Eugene Novembeki late of Levis, Staffonthire on "U WATTS, Cotto Affred Watts late of Lyungson, Hampshure died there on "Znaf Erbertzer 1998 WHEELDON nee Calenda, Phyllis W Late of Newcash, ander Lyms, Staffon dash there on "Znaf May 1998 WHEERISON, Lawrence Wilkinson inte of Shepherb Bash, London W 12 Jied at Hammersmith, London W 12 Jied at Hammersmith, London W 12 on 15th March 1997 The Widow Wildows and Ein of the above Teasons' Soliciaes (REs., Queen Jacob) PAGO SECURIT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Pursuant to Section 98 of the

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of the Creditors of the abovenamed Company will be held at 63

Walter Road, Swattees SAI 4PT, on

Vedoesday the 23rd day of

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GREATWAY CASH AND CARRY
LIMITED
In Liquidation
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John
Mason of Monton Thorton & Co.
Torriggon House, 47 Hotywell Hall, St
Albais, Herifordsine, All THO was
apported Liquidation of Greatway
Cash and Cony Limited by a resolution
of a meeting of the company's cocktion held on 30th November 1998.
DAVID KHIN MASON, Liquidation The Insolvency Act 1986 ADVITEL MARKETING LIMITED (Ist Liquidation) WILSON formerly please call We welcome enquiries from those who may need our help or from ***THE INDEPENDENT** meeting is to be next a next to the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the Offices of Stones Jones, fil Walter Road. Swansea SAI 4PT. being a place in the relevant locality. Whittingstall nec Nash those wishing to support the Society. aroune Makey Witten (ormer) Mittingstall Jace Nashi, Widow late of the Nanny Classifieds NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN that Maunce Raymond Domington 1974 of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, ECIM 648 was appointed I equidator of the said Company by the members and cordinos on 27th Nevember 1988 M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator A Preliminary Application Form and further information may be Classified February 1993 [cutie approximately 55/60].
The lens of the above-named are requested to apply to Messia. Robinson 11 Janus & Robin, Portland House. If Mebblle Street, Ryds. laie of Wighle 1903 2AP (Reference: LID 18/4314). If you're an independent reader who needs a Nanny. obtained from: why not advertise this with us. Call Slothan McCaul today on: Team on The Secretary S.A.L.R.C. (1), Dated the 30th day of November 1998 By Order of the Board of Directors J. C. REES Lancaster House, 25 Hornyold Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1QQ

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A film by gra 'OU 1

Grant gee, the dir behind the scenes Meeting people i lootage - including

Meeting people is out now on video:

MUSIC

Black apocalypse

The end of the world is nigh, say the superstars of hip hop – but not for everyone. The Five Per Cent Nation will survive. How do we know? Just listen between the lines. By Martin James

illennium fever. According to our own professional teenager Robbie more than an invitation to come and have a go if you think you're hard enough. For many of the world's leading hip hop artists, however, the year 2000 promises little more than death, destruction and copious quantities of pestilence along the way.

Leading this obsession with the apocalypse are clown prince of hip hop Busta Rhymes and Wu Tang Clansmen, Method Man and RZA, whose respective new albums offer bleak sisions of post-millennial doom, albeit wrapped up in huge amounts of b-boy posturing and crew-on-crew attitude.

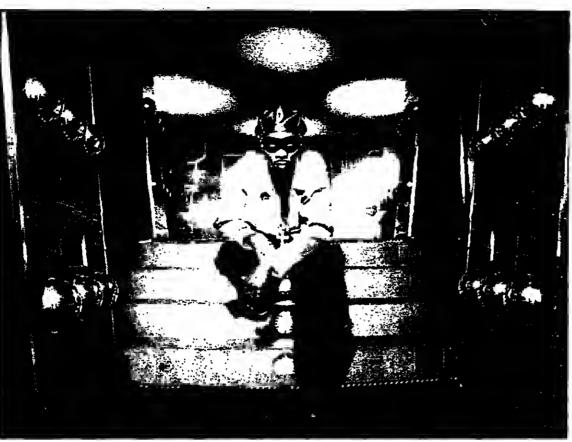
To anyone with a passing interest in these unlikely prophets, there is nothing surprising about the subject matter of their alhums. RZA and Method Man have long explored "eve of destruction" conspiracy theories, both in their Wu Tang and extra-curricular guises, with a vivacity worthy of Mr Illuminati himself, Robert Anton Wilson. Busta Rhymes, on the other hand, has promoted the "inevitable end" since his days with the early Nineties, Public Enemy-inspired group, Leaders of the New School.

In common with a number of high profile hip hop artists, RZA, Method Man and Busta continually allude to ach conspiracy theories, many of which are drawn from fact and then interpreted with a leap of the imagination. For instance, the documented experiments on the black males of the US town of Tuskegee, who were unknowingly injected with syphilis over a number of years in order to observe the effects of the virus on a small community. With the onset of Aids, and the allegedly disproportionate number of black male sufferers, theories quickly arose to suggest that HIV was similarly racially tested. However, a greater leap of imagi-However, a greater teap or unagreation is required for the alien con-spiracies lavoured by a number of hip. aliens will return to reclaim their native earth in the near future. Part of the repossession process is Hollywood's promotion of alien blockhusters - such as Independence Day

mankind for the inevitable. For Busta Rhymes, Method Man and RZA, such theories go way beyond conspiracy and into religion. Like felartists Canibus, Rakim, Queen Latifah and Erykah Badu, both Busta and his Flipmode Squad, and Method Man and RZA's Wu Tang Clan, are followers of the secularised Islamic sect, the Five Per Cent Nation. Like the followers of the Nation of Islam, they consider extraterrestrial life to be a part of God's great design, as is the earth's great day of reckoning. The similarities end there.

- which are supposedly preparing

The Five Per Cent Nation was founded by the ex-Nation of Islam fol-lower, Clarence "13X" Smith, in Harlem in 1964. Their teachings are drawn from a combination of Egypology, numerology and hiology. Funiamental to this belief system is the notion that God exists within the self,







Final countdown: clockwise from top, RZA as Bobby Digital, Busta Rhymes and Method Man

and that 85 per cent of the global population is heading for cataclysmic doom. Of the remaining population, 10 per cent (the governments etc) already hold the truth about what lies in store, while the final five per cent are the chosen ones.

Few artists who follow the Five Per Cent Nation seem prepared to discuss the subject in any great depth. Fur-thermore, although their lyrics hint at a greater theory, rarely do they seem to be anything more than empty rhetoric. The complicated ideas of the Five Per Cent seem to have been dumbed down to suit the needs of rap's superstars. In the US magazine Spin. Busta Rhymes argues that this is all about getting across to as many people as possible. In his pre-MTV days, he made no such concessions.

There are different levels of intelligence and many different ways of getting that intelligence across. Un-

fortunately, the motherfucker on the

street who lives and dies for hip hop just wasn't with that (Leaders of the New School) poetic shit."

RZA has a far more effective argument when dealing with the question. While in London recently to promote his latest album - recorded under the alias Bobby Digital - he declared: "We don't need to talk shit 'cos then they don't know what we be planning. If they know that we're down with they plans then they'll come back at us. So we keep it tight."

Such reticence presents a quandary. The Five Per Cent Nation presents its teachings as a series of "degrees" of knowledge. There are 120 degrees that all members have to learn. Beyond this, there are "plus degrees" - spurious knowledge, if you like - which make up many of the conspiracy theories. The problem lies in the fact that none of these degrees, from 120 on, are actually written

down. They are passed on in the oral

tradition, an obvious attraction for hip

But if these rappers are dropping lyrics which seem to have little substance, how can they pass on the knowledge? Old skool rapper and long-standing Five Per Cent-er Rakim, says you have to read between the lines. "Word is born. Like years ago, the slaves'd play a beat on the drums, a certain rhythm, and the whole village would know what was going on. That's just the way I like to drop my science - subliminally, but right there for a minute. Even the Bible and the Koran, it's right there for you, hut it might take somehody 10 times to read one paragraph to understand it. So you gotta read in be-

tween the lines...' In this context, millennial concept albums seem almost obligatory. Enter Busta Rhyme's third alhum, Extinction Level Event - The Final World Front. The record opens with

an extremely graphic comic-book message of destruction. Similarly, Method Man's latest album, Ticol 2000 - Judgment Dny, kicks off with a New Year countdown. As the call of "Happy New Year" rings out, the bomb drops, right on cue.

The bomb, of course, is metaphorical. Neither of these artists believes that the world will end in Hollywood fire and brimstone. In keeping with Five Per Cent beliefs, it will collapse in a whirlpool of self-created chaos. Busta prophesies: "Stock market crash, computer virus, no democratic system after this term. I think of rap music being taken away by law."

And here lies the immediate factor which ties hip hop to the conspiracies of millennial doom. The idea that rap music, as the vessel of all teachings, is so powerful that it will become outlawed. This is the main concern behind RZA's latest offering, RZA, as Bohby Digital in Stereo, presents a story of b-boy past, present and future locked into a battle with corporate industry over the fate of hip hop. In a re-run of the rape of the hlues, major industries have systematically taken hip hop and hleached it corporatewhite. Bobby Digital is here to take it hack underground. Allegedly.

It's due to such concerns that so many hip hop artists now run their own small empires. RZA's Wu Tang Clan has developed into a stable of solo artists. They also run their own perfume emporium, clothing line, comic books and, in the case of the Bobby Digital concept, a forthcoming hreak into film is on the cards as well. Similarly. Busta Rhymes has recently started Flipmode Entertainment with his own clothing concern and solo albums from his affiliated artists, Indeed, where once hip hop obsessed about East versus West and gangagainst-gang violence, now they're developing their own self contained industries. Corporate gangs no less. Hip hop's first hostile takeover album may be just around the corner.

With hip hop long offering the most attractive escape route from the inner that rappers consider the control of their business to be paramount to their cause. As Busta Rhymes says: "If that (millennium bug) isn't fixed by the year 2000, we're gonna be fucked up... when it hits, man, I ain't trying to be the motherfucker that's too late, fighting my way up outta the shit. I want to have a self-sufficient system

and be ready for all of that."

So with hip hop reclaimed, the chosen few appear to be walking into the next millennium like conquering heroes. The remaining 95 per cent, however, look set to disappear in a quagmire of computer virus, system breakdown and endemic corruption -Armageddon, as prophesied in every religious text known to mankind. Not even Robbie Williams is hard enough to deal with that

'RZA as Bobby Digital in Sterea' (Gee Street) and Method Man's Tical 200 – Judgement Day' (Def Jam) are both out now. Busta Rhymes' Extinction Level Event (The Final World Fronti' (EastWest) follows on

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Ozzy Osbourne, 50 this week, has taken up gardening. The problem is that he gardens at night. This has annoyed his neighbours, who object to the 17 four-metre-high lights which he has erected in his garden

Ozzy Osbourne's Garden



The moon's a stalag searchlight The sky's an orange glow The lawn's lit up by lasers Like a Sabbath stadium show By a listed Queen Anne building Near a former Quaker hall A tattooed man is digging Beside a garden wall...

And as the cheery rocker Totes shotgun through his grounds Some badgers run for cover He looses off two rounds A bat caught in the crossfire Falls lifeless from a tree The singer's patient missus Shouts "Oz. d'you want yer tea?"

The heavy metal rose-grower Finds secateurs no good And much prefers a chainsaw When pruning out dead wood. Though sprays can be effective For blackfly, Ozzy's learned That cherry-bombs work better Where cherries are concerned

A rock god takes up gardening Two different worlds collide The neighbours' dogs won't settle The cats are terrified The king of beavy metal Is getting into stride. A drum of Agent Orang And flamethrower by his side

...Happy birthday, Ozzy



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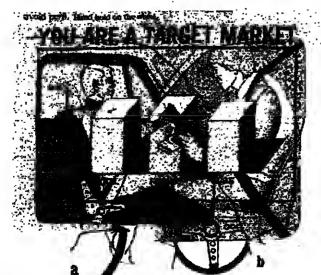
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BOURNEMOUTH INT CENTRE BRIGHTON CENTRE

THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST FROM THE 80s

Meeting people is easy. A film by grant gee about radiohead.

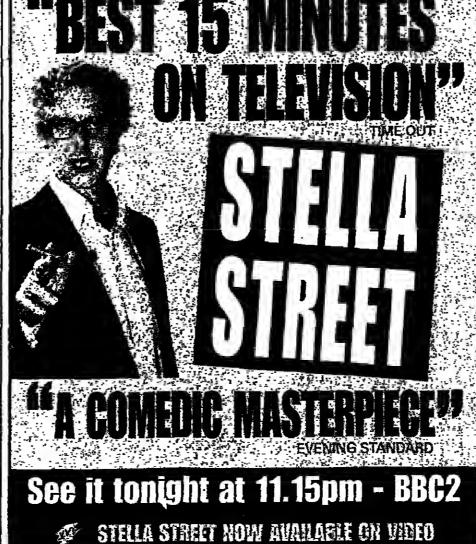


Grant gee, the director of no surprises, spent a year on the road and behind the scenes with radiohead.

Meeting people is easy. is a 90 minute collage of previously unseen footage - including shows in barcelona, paris, new york and tokyo.

Meeting people is easy. out now on video.





THE INDEPENDENT



DAVE ALVIN Blackjack David Hightone

ONE OF the more interesting trends in modern American rock has been the drift back to simpler, folksy forms, as songwriters as diverse as Kurt Wagner, Gillian Welch, Bruce Springsteen and Beck seek a more direct, uncluttered connection with their roots. As singer and guitarist with The Blasters, Dave Alvin made one or two cracking R&B-fuelled rock'n'roll records back in the Eighties, but recent years have seen him work more and more as a solo folk-blues performer or, as here, within the subtle settings devised by his producer, the multi-instrumentalist Greg Leisz.

Blackjack David, his latest album,

illustrates the virtue of his revised approach: Alvin's songwriting has never been sharper, whether his characters are hymning the life of the road in "Abilene" and "New Highway", or regretting their dead-end small-town stasis in "From a Kitchen Table". The diversity of situations in these 11 songs is testament to his imagination, while the depth of character is sometimes painful to witness. Take the case of the patsy narrating the rural. Body Heat scenario, "Mary Brown", who

finds himself helpless to resist when Mary sets him up to murder her husband. Even when she testifies against him, he admits he'd do it again; trapped by his desire, he's powerless to alter his fate.

We're all in much the same boat, Alvin suggests, just impotent hostages to our aspirations. Alvin's songs stand as a denial of the American Dream, speaking up instead for the deprived and dispossessed - people such as the Vietnam veteran in "1968", trying to live with impossible memories: "folks say he's a hero, but he'll tell you he ain't/He left the hero in the jungle back in 1968".

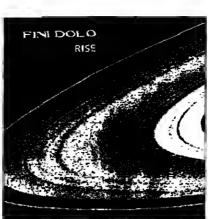
Tragedy stalks these songs. In "California Snow", a border guard observes the plight of immigrants caught short by seasonal change, as he finds a Mexican peasant carrying his dead wife. "The California summer sun can hurn right through your soul, but in the winter you can freeze to death in the California snow." The implication is clear: we're all iust sad wethacks at heart, lured by the pathetic spectacle of Hollywood, but ill-prepared for the erosion of values it entails.



HONEYZ Wonder No. 8

I SUPPOSE there might be a less imaginative album released this year than the optimistically-titled Wonder No. 8, but whoever's making it will have to hurry up. Certainly, it would be difficult to conceive of a more listless assault on the girl-group formula than the Angio-French trio Honeyz offer here. There's a strange, android feel about the way they strive to include every single one of the genre's cliches - the vapid answering machine "messages" that punctuate the tracks; the pointless lists of thanks in the CD booklet; never using one note where five can be squeezed in: and, particularly, the language of the songs themselves, a portfolio of cheap sexual promise rendered in alien phrases such as "freak me", probably the world's least sensuous invitation.

In fact, if it weren't for Celena, Heavenli - yes, Heavenli - and Naima's himitations as singers, they wouldn't really have much character at all. Sensibly, they've put the obvious hits - the likeable "Finally Found" and the slight hut cute "Do Me Baby" - at the start of the album, but be warned; things deteriorate rapidly thereafter. Colonised soul music, for colonised souls.



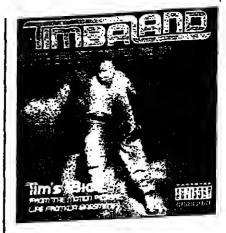
FINI DOLO Rise

FINI DOLO is a collaboration between the UK house veteran Noel Watson and the New York poet Sonja Sohn, co-writer/costar of the movie Slam. Together they've made one of the year's more arresting hip-house offerings, with Watson's slick, spare jazz-rap arrangements providing a strong, expressive skeleton for Sohn's smart, cool hlank verse. She was blooded in the Nuyorican Poetry Café scene, and her poems probe at the interface of the personal and the political, in terms appropriate to their targets. In one of several tracks criticising the "crystal pimp daddy capitalist" style of hip-hop vernacular, for instance, she ripostes: "If you gotta call my pussy something, call it God." Elsewhere, a sort of feminist Egyptocentrism is posited against the genre's prevailing violence and materialism, though that doesn't prevent her from summoning more authentic sensual languor in one song ("Blow") than the Honeyz manage in an entire album. Like her fellow New Yorker Dana Bryant, Sohn speaks loudly of worldly intimacies - and judging by the stark accounts of tracks such as "Hustle For Life", "Void" and "Journey", hers is a hard-won intelligence indeed.



TOM ZÉ Fabrication Defect

TOM ZE who was a member of the Tropicalismo movement that revitalised Brazilian culture in the Sixties, remains as creative as ever. His third release for David Byrne's Luaka Bop label is a concept album whose individual tracks enumerate the welcome "defects" of personality - the appetites, desires and drives - that separate humans from robots. Behind the slightly corny notion lies a serious concern with the way those desires are increasingly manipulated by technological forces. Zé dedicates the album to the Third World underclass. who despite being "analphabetic", still continue to "think, dance and dream". "To think," explains the singer, "will always be considered an effrontery." Accordingly, he employs a wide range of sounds and methods, from the various Latin American rhythmic modes to fast. cyclical guitar parts in the African soukous style. It's a fascinating hazaar of sound, with surprises around every corner, never more so than when "O Olho Do Lago", a homage to concrete poetry, opens with the sound of an electric drill. Witty and passionate, Fabrication Defect has both head and heart in exactly the



TIMBALAND Tim's Bio: Life From Da Bassment

TIM "Timbaland" Mosley is the current flavour-of-the-month producer in American urban/R&B circles, helming hits for the likes of Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, Jay-Z, Aaliyah and Ginuwine. All four contribute to his solo debut, on which Timbaland seeks to showcase his "sound of the Dirty South" as a Southern equiva-lent of Puff Daddy's stable of rappers and singers.

Like most successful producers in this field, Timbaland has developed his own sound, using choppy beats and synth lines to create light, funky rhythms informed, hut not dominated, hy the staccato style of dancehall reggae.

His grooves manage to provide a versatile undercarriage for the vocalists. whether it's Ginuwine oozing his way lasciviously through "Keep It Real", or ghetto auteur Nas rapping on "To My". Timbaland himself raps on some tracks, with a deadpan, laid-back monotone style - except for when he adds a cartoonish, speeded-up high-register to the chorus of "I Get It On", as infectious a hiphop cut as I've heard all year.

Fresh and forceful, it's certainly the Sound Of Young America, for the time being at least.

and college degrees in arts Stained Eye", and when Bo-

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY LOU BARLOW, LEAD SINGER OF SEBADOH

First record Commander Cody and His Lost Airman: "Hot Rod

It was a one-hit wonder surprised? I really liked it, but then I was only seven years old. It just seemed exciting. It's a very fast song about someone getting arrested for speeding. The

hook was a man saying to his son that it would drive him to drink if he carried on driving that hot rod Lincoln. It's a song with a real jocular guitar, rock-a-Billy style. It was the type of silly single I bought at that age, which is quite frightening

because everything I hear

Last Record Johnny Cash: "Greatest My parents had one Johnny Cash record, so I was introduced to him when I was a kid. This is an album

of his earliest hits, very

minimal music - stripped-

down guitar, bass and drum.

long apiece and have very simple lyrics. His songs may all sound approximately the same, but I love them all. INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

Sebadoh release 'Flame' (Domino) on 18 January 1999, and play The Astoria. London on 19 January



Lessons in Americana

ON PAPER this looks like an interesting contrast between two groups of not-so-young men who know what it is to sit around the kitchen playing guitars, on opposite sides of the Atlantic. First up are the new Wigan pretenders, Witness. reportedly friends of Britain's arch balladeers The Verve (though, as they point out, "in Wigan, pretty much everybody knows someone who's out of

The Verve". hardly the most forward of hands - but the four-piece shows enough promise to survive comparisons. The guitarist Ray Chan will certainly remind audiences of Nick McCabe, as much for his ability apparently to sit while in fact standing, as for his stylish slide technique, while the singer Gerard Starkie

LIVE SON VOLT/WITNESS LA2 LONDON

has a wide, warm range, already given to swoops into the bass register alongside Tim Buckley-esque flights of fancy. They play well within themselves, tempered perhaps by the fact that they've so far performed only a handful of shows, hut there's enough exactly a riot going on - they're room in the music, especially the pounding "So Far Gone" and the presumably untitled "6/8" to make them a tip for 1999. Tantalisingly tentative.

From Motorway 61 revisited to the real thing. The New Orleans-based Son Volt are exemplars of American alternative country, for which read

rather than marketing". They were formed from the ashes of the critical favourites Uncle Tupelo - the other half became that bar band par excellence Wilco (rowdy, catchy, straightforward, sounding exactly like their influences). The founder, Jay Farrar has followed a more thoughtful path. Farrar, whose vocals and haircut resemble that of The Byrds' lost genius, Gene Clark, stands stock still at ntre as they nurvey a doggedly relentless form of Americana-tinged rock.

"Straightface" might as well be called "Straightforward", as the drummer Mike Heidorn keeps up a strict rhythm for the first four songs, refusing to add emphasis to some of Dave Boquist's excellent lead playing. Things loosen up with the

quist picks up the viola, though his punctuation is a reflection of his guitar work. In general, they lack the wonderful raggedness of such patent inspirations as Dylan's work with The Band, or early REM. While contemporaries such as Teenage Fanclub and The Javhawks successfully vary their palette, probably owing to sharing the songwriting load. Son Volt wear thin, despite finishing strongly with favourites such as fall" and "Caryatid Easy". It's not until the encores

The Stooges' frenetic "I Got a Right" and the Del-Vettes' wonderfully obscure garage-rock classic, "Last Time Around" that we finally see Farrar re-(/ laxed and growling, and showing the audience that a history lesson can he fun after all.

.

...

STEVE JELBERT



THE EX-RENICKIE Front person Lauren Laverne is a front-runner to replace Denise van Outen on Channel 4's The Big Breakfast. A glance at her CV reveals a whiff of the meeja star: a convent school upbringing; presenting experience via The Alphabet Show; a colourful vocabulary. Others in line for the job include Melanie Sykes, MTV's Jenny McCarthy, Sophie Dahl, Melinda Messenger and the former Hollyoaks star Davinia Taylor.

JUST DAYS after trashing his hotel room in a post-concert rampage, Marilyn Manson is accused of setting his bodyguards on a journalist from Spin. Craig Marks, executive editor of the alternative music mag, says he was grabbed hy the throat, pulled up in the air and tossed against a wall by the shock rocker's goons following a concert at New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom. Marks, 37, charged Manson & Co with harassment and assault NYPD is investigating. There'a no immediate word from the Manson camp. who have become adept at "no commenting" on the singer's myriad controversies. JENNIFER RODGER



The Indep

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It's the way he makes them up

An Oscar nomination and four solo albums – it's been a very good year for American songwriter Elliott Smith. By Andrew Mueller

ELLIOTT SMITH has a face one was going to realise that block, which represents the admitted heroes, Bob Dylan that sometimes looks younger than his 29 years, and sometimes an awful lot older. His appearance is such that he must find it difficult to walk the streets without complete strangers offering him blankets, soup and spare change: be wears a permanently distracted, faraway air, a pale blue woollen hat pulled over his forehead, a black leather wristband of the sort that 15-yearolds buy along with their first beavy metal record, and a Rolling Stooes T-shirt so threadbare, it probably dates from the last time anyone with functioning hearing and rudimentary aesthetic sense would cooceivably have bought one.

Still, the Texas-born, Oregon-reared, Brooklyn-dwelling Smith isn't sitting in the lounge of a Hilton botel waiting for a lift to the airport for his dress sense. He has had four solo albums released in Britain this year (Elliott Smith, Roman Condle and Either/Or, which had previously been available in the States, and a new album, XO), and has been the bero of an unlikely but undeniably cheering showbusiness fable: the songs he gave Gus Van Sant for his film Good Will Hunting earned Smith an Academy Award nomination and an invitation to play at the Oscars. It was hard to watch without feeling that any second some-

and heave him into the skips behind the venue.

"Oh, Celine Dion just represents more of the world than I do," says Smith, still philosophical in defeat. "And actually,

she was really nice." Smith doesn't seem overjoyed about doing press, but he's amiable enough, though his answers teod to be as sketchy and impressionistic as his lyrics. XO, one of the few genuinely great albums to have lessed 1998, is a collection of

there'd been a terrible mistake one thing that keeps coming up and, especially, Elvis Costello in someone's life. Regardless of where they live, or what they try echoes of "Couldn't Call It Uoto change about their situation, there are certain things that just keep on trailing you wherever you go. That's why I like his paintings; they're more permanent, more universal than some particular depiction of an object. If I could make up songs that were like those paintings, songs that have dispensed with

'Paintings make me more excited to write than books or songs do'

kind of fun to try."

gentle, gorgeous, lonely songs that sound and read like views glimpsed through wet windows; Smith has the happy knack of writing the kind of song where you're not quite sure what it's about, but nonetheless know exactly what he means. It's telling that he family in a karaoke lounge, two describes what he does as "making up" rather than through two different kinds of "writing" songs.

"At the risk of getting really pretentious," he says, "I like the painter Mark Rothko... now, I don't know what be meant them to mean, but when I look at his paintings, one of the things they make me think of is love you anyhow". It betrays the Smith is playing ULU tonight

The current single from XO, the rather prosaically titled "Waltz #2", is a fine example of what Smith means when he talks about songs as "A collage of words, rather than a single coherent theme or story". The song is a blurred portrait of a parents and a child going motions. Smith sings back at them the songs they're singing ("Cathy's Clown", "You're No Good"), and hangs the whole thing on the typically opaque

hook line 'Tm never gonna

know you now, but I'm gonna

(the song contains distinct expected" and "Our Little Angel"), but mostly it's admirably subtle and evocative, and reinforces Smith's foodness for explaining his ambitions in terms of other media.

"I mean," be says, "I don't know much about visual art. It's more oo a level of ... I'll like bow a painting is green and blue, details and objects... it's hard and think it'd be cool to make to do that with words, but it's up a song that sounds like it's green and blue. Paintings make me more excited to write than books or songs do."

Modest to a fault, Smith says the only real ambition be has is a contract that would allow him to make an album every six months, so as to accommodate his prolific output

"Everyone's got a story," be shrugs, when asked to account for this. "The characters I like are someone real or imaginary who's finding some way round an obstacle, especially if the way they find to get around an obstacle is itself an obstacle... it's kind of a comparison between two problems. If it was all about me it would be really boring for me to sing. I already know how I feel."

The single. Waltz #2', is out now on Dreamworks. Elliott



this one - big - thing this big debt that Smith owes to his in London WC1 (0171 664 2030) Elliott Smith: 'Celine Dion represents more of the world than I do'

صكذا من الاصل

Glittering grey marks on the fingerprint file

IN ONLY a few years, Jan Gar-tient progress. If the timbre of touring group has retained a barek has moved from cult jazz his music has changed fre- constancy which suits him saxophonist to renowned, barrier busting voice of contem- remains as individual and miliar Garbarek gang of Eberborary music. Although there recognisable as his finger hard Weber, whose basslines have been landmarks along prints, and as inimitable as it are as particular as the al bestseller, Officium, with The Hilliard Ensemble, which brought him his biggest audieoce - it's been a notably pa-

quently, his instrumental voice almost 30 years ago.

Where Garbarek has tried numberless combinations of players on his records, his cret vice. Marilyn Mazur on lungs to deliver that first in- from the lavish and expensive from palliative. New Age music. nings, and they were rewarded

well. At the RFH, it was the fawas on his first ECM records, leader's; Rainer Bruninghaus

Concerts

LIVE JAN GARBAREK ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON

drums and percussion. They

cantatory phrase. He really sounds like nobody else.

For much of the evening. though, the rigorous skirling of some might call failings. Many Garbarek's tenor and soprano of his themes are no more than was closely meshed with the a melodic motif or deceptively

Concerts

new record, Rites, an impeccable demonstration of Garbarek's strength, and the habits which

ilyn Mazur to put some iron into this mix. Even when tapping out the simplest tattoo on her mix of kit drums, bells, cymbals and shakers, the ear is constantly other players: an ensemble simple progression. And he can drawn to the vibrant precision on keyboards, a self-effacing are not a charismatic lot to look rather than a soloist's medita- find ways to pick at them for of her playing. It leaves Weber A version of this review aptexturalist; and, for the world- at, but there is an anticipatory tion. The first 50 minutes was a hours. This refinement, though, and Bruninghaus to provide peared in later editions of yesly kick which is Garbarek's se- chill when the leader fills his seamless tracing of themes, can seem barely a step away the lush, harmonic underpin-

He is fortunate to have Mar- with extravagant solo interludes in the second half. But this is group-music jazz absorbed into a fine and rather private world view: that of Jan Gar-

> terday's paper RICHARD COOK

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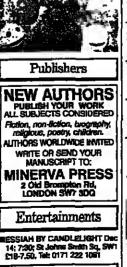


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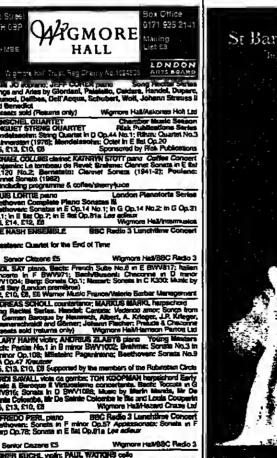


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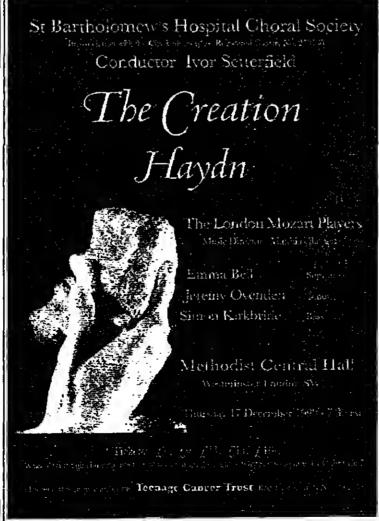
Team 0171 293

Wed 9 Dec 7,30pm

Thu 10 Dec 7.30pm



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The French connection

Poulenc and Messiaen evoke the extremes of 20th-century composition. But do they share more than a homeland? By Bayan Northcott

struggled to resume the patterns of its pre-war musical life after the distortions of the German occupation, Francis Poulenc wrote to his old colleague Darius Milhaud, who had, meanwhile, sat out the conflict in distant California. "The rise of Messiaen has been the most important event. In fact, you will find a fanatical sect surrounding this musician who, for all the impossible literary jargon, is nevertheless remarkable. The Messiaenistes are very much against Stravinsky's Tast period'. For them, Igor's music ends with Le Sacre. They booed Les Danses Concertantes, which I adore. But this makes things lively. This is what it is about."

It says much for Poulenc's perceptive open-mindedness that he so quickly sensed and, to a degree, accepted the necessity of a major shift in French musical culture that he must have realised would prove disadvantageous to his own aims and achievements - even if he had yet to identify the ringleader of the Messiaenistes as an obstreperous 20-year-old called Pierre Boulez. Of course, Messiaen himself had already been around for some time. Born into a provincial family of serious artistic and spiritual endeavour - his mother was a religious poet -he entered the Paris Conservatoire aged only 11, studying with Dukas and duly carrying off all the prizes. But as a rising young composer in the Thirties, he had proved curiously difficult to "place". On the one hand, the systematic rigour of his rhythmic and modal techniques and the surrealistic imagery of the texts be wrote for himself to set seemed Modernist. On the other hand, his religious sentiment and sound seemed to come straight out of what was then regarded as the most conservative native tradition - the French

recognised Messiaen as something of an original, remarking: "Either one loves this music or one hates it, but it cannot be ignored, any more than the paintings of Rouault."

Messiaen, by contrast, must have regarded Poulenc as typical of the smart frivolity of inter-war Paris, against which he had already protested as a member of a shortlived composer group called La Jeune France, preaching a return to sincerity in art. Superbly trained ered Poulenc a bit of a dilettante. out of Debussyan Impressionism, bourgeoise Parisian family, the lat- with the loose grouping of comter early took to the piano, but posers, Poulenc among them, who owing to military call-up towards the were known as Les Six.



Poulenc, at least, seems to have Francis Poulenc (right) on Olivier Messiaen: 'Either one loves this music or one hates it, but it cannot be ignored'

end of the First World War, he missed out on a Conservatoire training - leaving him with what be acknowledged were technical limitabons as a composer.

Unlike Messiaen 10 years later, however, Poulenc found almost instant success in his early twenties mainly because the insouciant, Satie-esque little pieces he came out with so perfectly epitomised the hright, positive, populist new spirit

ical gadfly had its disadvantages. By the time the French public bad begun to realise that Poulenc was also capable of sacred settings of a touching simplicity, closer in spirit to La Jeune France than almost anything by Messiaen, and, moreover, that he had embarked upon a lyrical song recital partnership with the baritone Pierre Bernac ultimately as fruitful as that of Britten himself, be may also have consident that Cocteau was calling for as a way and Pears, the Second World War was upon them all.

1945 was the moment when the

Paris buzzing with the Existentialism of Sartre. And although he had established himself as a composer of international standing by the time he had completed his vast, kaleidoscopic Turangalila-Symphonie in 1948, Messiaen's real influence was being exerted through

class Messiaen ran at the Conser-self Around 1950, Messiaen himself moderns - Strauss, Schoenberg and superseded by that of Messiaen most striking new possibilities in fearsome constructivism. But not for let alone that, in certain ways, their don W1 (0171-935 2141)

Such early typecasting as a mus- would be simplistic. For a start, rhythm, harmony, timbre and so on long; soon he was off transcribing Messiaen's religiosity was quite as in the 1900s, and then had apparently suspect as Poulenc's in a post-war taken fright, retreating into various forms of neo-classicism between the wars, leaving those possibilities still to be explored.

As transmuted by the young Boulez in a series of fierce polemics, this was to emerge as the central doctrine of the post-war avant garde: that henceforth every new work should involve a radical re-in-A major theme of the analysis vention of the musical language it-

the songs of "God's musicians". the birds. And after 1960, his main concern was to amass all of his musical resources - the modes, the hirdsong and the constructivism - into the grandly conceived, frieze-like sacred projects of his last three decades.

By then, Poulenc was dead, felled by a sudden beart attack in January 1963 - though from the avant-garde viewpoint be had ceased to matter years before, if he ever had.

eloquence into attempting a series argue that Poulenc achieved anymusical milieu of Poulenc was finally Stravinsky - had opened up the of piano and organ pieces of a quite thing like Messiaen's stature,

outputs were complementary. Yet Poulenc did not simply cease to evolve after 1945. On the contrary, he continued to admire Boulez ("a true musician"), and, in his magpie way, to appropriate clangorous sounds from the New Music - even, in his last choral work, Sept Repons des Ténebres (1962), a patch of Webernian serialism.

Moreover, his three large postwar sacred works plus his opera Les Dialogues des Carmélites (1956) rather strikingly anticipated, as it were by contradiction, the later concerns of Messiaen.

We may deplore on grounds of baste or decorum the outrageous farrago of musical cribs and stylisbc clashes that comprise the Gloria (1960) – inspired, Poulenc claimed, by medieval frescoes of angels sticking their tongues out and a vision of monks playing football. But in its evocation of spiritual joy, pain, naughtiness and penitence, the work rather specifically encompasses those "human" aspects of faith that are sedulously excluded from Messizen's theological visions.

Ultimately, their relative standing may rest upon whether listeners continue to accept the historical view, fathered by Boulez out of Messiaen, that the inter-war years represented a temporary and regrettable surrender to the past in the Modernist programme of perpetual revolution, or whether those years are interpreted rather as the beginning of the post-modernist project of perpetually recomposing the past in terms of the present, as in Stravinsky's collage-like reanimating of traditional forms.

Messiaen's most radical innovation - his alternative concept of form, not as a dynamic process to be worked through, but as a series of durations to be filled in - has undoubtedly had a huge influence in recent decades, not least upon Boulez and Stockhausen.

Yet Poulenc's recurrent impulse throughout his career to push the Stravinskyan approach to Its extreme, cramming in unlikely juxtapositions of style and tone as if to test traditional notions of continuity, of "the work" itself, to breaking-point, reveals a conceptual toughness beneath the irony and charm that could yet prove to be quite as salient.

Olivier Messiaen in his Century: Birmingham 90th Birthday celebrations, 10 Dec, CBSO Centre. Birmingham (0121-212 3333), broad-

Saved for the nation

Radio 3 realises the worth of its output, while a sleuth unearths a rare gem

FIRST THE good news. Radio 3's one and only musical current affairs programme, Music Mntters, is to be reprieved. Its axing was a typically daft Birt-Bannister idea, obediently rubber-stamped by the former cootroller of Radio 3, Nicholas Kenyon. Its reprieve has not yet been formally announced, but since I prised confirmation of the event from Kenyon's successor, Roger Wright, I am inclined to believe it.

As Wright observed, it would have been ludicrous for a music channel to have oo programme on which musical issues could be discussed. The ill-fated World Music slot still looks a likely candidate to go, but Wright promises that world music will always be strongly present in the schedules, in unghettoised form. We'll be watching, Roger

And oow for the bad news. Unless some extraordinary alchemy takes place in the editing room, this Sunday's edition of Music Matters will be a real snoozeroo. I know this, because I was there in the audience at the Barbican where it was recorded. It wasn't necessarily a bad idea to convene music's top movers and shakers for a short, sharp think-in about this Government's policies, but somehow the thing never sparked.

Neither of the debate's two direct hits ruffled the emollient reformed Tory who now represents the Department of Culture. He laughed off the plausible suggestion that Tony Blair is secretly glad that Covent Gardeo is oow dark - it doesn't fit the Blairite image at all - and he insisted that the Arts Council's imminent devolution of power to the regions was a perfectly sensible development, rather than the cockup it will shortly prove to be. He good an indication as any of

SIGHT READINGS



CHURCH

said more than once, that it was "not for him to tell the Council what to do", as though the dear existed. Does the Arts Council



On sale: Caruso caricature

AN AUTOGRAPHED letter from Claudio Monteverdi - what am I bid? Do I hear 50? Sixty? Seventy? No. unless you click in at £80,000 this morning you woo't get a sniff of one of the only two Monteverdi letters free of museum captivity.

The trade in musical manuscripts is booming, and today's auction at Sotheby's is as

Schumann song-cycle estimated at £120,000, and a stash of Diaghilev's letters from £30,000. There's a Haydn letter for £12,000, and one from the doomed and syphilitic Schubert starting at £20,000. The last of these sales saw a single page of Mozart go for £88,000, and a complete Brahms manuscript for £441,000. But small spenders can also play: today. there are missives from Liszt starting at a mere £400, while for around £700 you can walk off with a Caruso self-caricature as a samurai, or a musical hilletdoux from Puccini. You could

the way the wind is blowing.

There's an autographed

Last year, quite by accident, I stumbled into this game. Pok-ing around in a junk shop on an island off the coast of Estonia. I found a cache of piano music that had been collected and bound by a St Petersburg enthusiast in the 1820s. It was a wooderful moment: opening the thick, hand-printed pages was like uncorking an ancient perfume. The whole lot didn't cost me much, and it later proved not to be worth a lot, either, but ever since that day I have been booked.

spend a lot more than that on

an Armani suit.

So is Sotheby's book expert, Stephen Roe, a trained musicologist who has turned his Johann Christian Bach specialism to excellent account. One of today's prize catches an autograph manuscript of a JC Bach aria - owes its presence entirely to Roe's acumen. "I and a colleague were looking through a buge collection of manuscripts, and this was in my pile. It had no name or identification, but I instantly recognised the handwriting, and realised it was a manuscript which had been lost since the

end of the 18th century."

He couldn't dream of buying

it himself - estimates start at £25,000 - but that's not the point; for him - it's the thrill of the chase.

And also the closeness that brings with composers. Manuscript scores are far more important to Roe than mere letters: "With this aria, for example, you can tell very clearly how be wanted the music to sound, from the way he wrote it out. It's a real contact with the man." Roe is the musicologists' Hercule Poirot. Heit was who first spotted Clara Schu-mann's calligraphy threaded through the manuscript of Robert Schumann's piano consniffer-out of fakes. He belped to rumble the recent Haydn "find of the century" which conned the world's top experts and inspired - like the "Hitler Diaries" - an exultant editorial in The Times.

Fakes, be says, generally fall into one of two categories: those which are designed to deceive, and those which are merely the product of some great composer's copyist, rather than of the man himself. Bach, Stravinsky, and Mendelssohn all come into the latter category, with Mozart fils and pere being equally hard to distinguish.

Spotting a fake, says Roe, is like looking through a window that has frosted over. "One corner starts to evaporate, and the whole thing becomes crystal clear." What next? His dream is to

find the autographed manuscripts to Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto and his "Hammerklavier", and be lives in hope. "If a work by JC Bach, lost since the 18th century, can turn up in a south Loodon warehouse just because I happen to wander in... well, anything can happen. And I want

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S CD RELEASES

ANY INFORMED assessment of the year's classical CDs will place piano music at its centre, with Philips's multi-disc "Great Pianists of the 20th Century" series as the inevitable highlight, Many releases have featured virtuosos whose reputations still stand intact, but two recall significant lesserknown taleots who were cut off in their prime: the American William Kapell and the Australian Noel Mewton-Wood. Both were born in 1922 and both died in 1953. Kapell in an aircrasb and Mewton-Wood by his own hand. Neither pianist has enjoyed much representation on CD, but in the case of Kapeli, BMG has made ample amends with its nine-CD "William Kapeli Edibon".

Mewton-Wood's star has been rather slower to ascend, though Pearl recently made a start with a Weber sonata disc and now the French company Dante has re-issued flamboyant, occasionally idiosyncratic and frequently brilliant accounts of Chopin's two piano concertos. In the Second Concerto's dreamy Larghetto you encounter playing that stretches and indulges the musical line with audacious freedom. How has such charismatic playing languished in the vaults for so long? Perhaps we might now expect Mewton-Wood's equally striking accounts of the Tchaikovsky concertos. Kapell's "Edition"

chronicles a less wilful talent from auspicious youth to early maturity, and

Alan Evans and Appette Morreau Dexterous readings of Prokofiev Three and the Khachaturian sometimes defy belief, but the musical core of Kapell's playing lies in his Chopin, including a heart-rendering sequence of 30-odd mazurkas. There are concertos by Beethoven and Rachmaninov, notable collaborations with Heifetz and Primrose, a previouslyunissued live concert that includes Copland's Piano Sooata, and an interview. Rubinstein and Horowitz are obvious influences, but the farther you venture towards that fateful day in 1953, the more you realise that Kapell was discovering his own interpretative paths. Had he lived, he would likely have vied with

with useful annolation from

his younger peers Julius Katchen and Leon Fleisher. In the case of Russianborn Shura Cherkassky. comparisons are hardly relevant. Even in his eighbes, Cherkassky was a provocative one-off, a perennial youngster. His mercurial playing never lost its sparkle, though collectors have long prized his fiercely individualistic mono set of Chopin Studies. Happily, these and some later Chopin recordings are about to re-appear as part of Philips's "Great Pianists" series. Unmissable, I'd say.

Chopin/Mewton-Wood: Dante HPC105 (full price) William Kapell Editions: BMG 09026-68442-2 19 discs, mid price) Chopin/Cherkassky: Philips

456 742-2 (2 discs, mid price)

Too many notes, Mr Gold

ONE OF the dominant images in Shekhar Kapur's recent feature film Elizabeth was the vast nave of Durham Cathedral a puzzling choice of locabon, for all its splendour. Elizabeth never went further oorth than Stafford while she was queen, though that's merely an acad-emic quibble. But Durham Cathedral suggested such an unlikely setting for the court

an idea of what the vast White-

hall complex was like, and

how it grew throughout the

reigns of the Tudor and Stuart

that it was surreal Elizabeth's main residence was the Palace of Whitehall, first inhabited by her parents, Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, in 1533. In Radio 3's Spirit of the Age on Sunday afternoon, the historians Daniel Snowman and David Starkey tried to create

ADRIAN JACK

ON THE AIR

down in 1698, it had something like 1,500 rooms and was described as the biggest and ugliest palace in the world.

Very little remains today apart from Cardinal Wolsey's wine cellar and Inigo Jooes's Banqueting House, so Snowman and Starkey could only speculate on the activities surrounding the monarchs, in between examples of the music they might have beard. These were all by English composers, even though Starkey asserted that art at the Stuart court was a foreign commodity.

Snowman politely refrained from explaining that Giovanni Coprario was, in fact, English. monarchs. By the time it hurnt He also failed to point out that

Charles I esteemed William Lawes above all other composers. There was no mention of any of the great Tudor composers, or even of Purcell. though we did hear two bits of his music written for Queen Mary's funeral.

Purcell might, I suppose, have featured occasionally in Becky Sharp's repertoire of seductive songs, though it stretched the imagination when in the fifth episode of BBC1's Vanity Fair, Natasha Little had a group of ladies nooplussed with an acidulated, small-spirited rendition of Dido's lament, "When I am laid in earth". Perhaps this small surprise was intended as an ambiguous indicator of her impending fate, to yield to Lord Steyne and her own ruin. Or is that to overestimate the director, Marc Munden? After

all, be may have an eye for grotesque caricature, but be hardly ventured into the ironic world of Hans-Jürgen Syberberg's films of Wagner, which represent mythical archetypes as wob-

bly puppets. Earlier in the same episode, the jazzy vulgarity of Becky's knowing little number at the fortepiano was as embarrassing as it was unlikely. Yet Murray Gold's sardonic music, with its recurring leitmotif of three sinister chords, makes an effective cootribution to the chill of this morality tale without attempting period pastiche. There's too much music, though as Becky sobbed her stony heart out at the end of last Sunday's episode, there was a devastating silence, more eloquent

- Rece SCOTT A SETME

ED MAN'S CURVE (15) C. Circ

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NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U) Director: George Miller

Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell,

Daily The follow-up to 1995's Babe tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG) Director: Pat O'Connor

Starring: Maryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Irelandset saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) Director: Frank Capra

. Sarring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Earrymore

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being. with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he YEAR OF THE HORSE (15) never been born, before returning merrily to his Joblike existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill,

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG)

Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

Director: Alain Resnais

Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema Love him or loathe him. Last Year at Marienbad auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's Smoking/No Smoking comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoit

RUSH HOUR (15) Director: Brett Ratner

Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker. Tom Wilkinson

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jack ie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (Money Talks' Ratner) and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman

Twilight reunites Newman with his Nobody's Fool collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gumshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely. West End: Plaza

Director: Jim Jarmusch Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between hracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, above West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero

Monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New. visually innovative. West End: Hommersmith York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, bloodsucker. West End: Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End Warner Village West End

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

The students at writer-director Dan Rosen's American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight A-grades to the re-n-mates of suicides. Though not as nasty as the Scream films, this delivers a respectable quota of shocks. West End: Metro, Virgin Trocadero

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of a female struggling to gain purchase in a male world. Kapur largely neglects the chance for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

The Express is a creature conditioned by rumour hd hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

Mix Troelve Monkeys with Four Weddings and a Juneral and you'd get Maria Ripoll's dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy about a dumped boyfriend who is transported back in time by mysterious Spanish dustmen. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers and newcomer Laura Fraser West End: ABC Swiss Centre. Curzon Minema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING

BARRELS (18) Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card-game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Kensington, deon Mezzonine, Warner Village West End

Bille August turns Victor Hugo's novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as literary Avenue, Clopham Picture House

adaptations come these days. It's earnest, differential and almost humourless. West End: Odeon West End

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, 8 girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all. A pro-active heroine; a strong father/daughter relationship; bonour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocodero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U) See The Independent Recommends, above West End: Curzon Soho

A tired espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. As dull as ditch-water. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

ROUNDERS (15)

John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of The Last Seduction but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently forgettable Unforgettable. West End: Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15)

Tamara Jenkins's fictionalised account of her own teenage years in the outskirts of Beverly Hills lacks the wit of The Ice Storm and Boogie Nights, But her impeccable sense of comic timing is enhanced by a superb central performer in Alan Arkin. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Ritzy Cinema

A Conrad adaptation which takes us to a sleazy hotel in the South Seas, and provides some safe, literary acting from Simon Callow and friends. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15) Jude Law plays a vampire who wines and dines his victims. An attempt to give an adult twist to a genre that's principally an adolescent enthusiasm. West End: ABC Panton Street, ABC Shaftesbury

in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantie pairing of the cinema year.

Insomnia (15)

Erik

Remarkable debut by

begins with a policeman

(Stellan Skarsgard)

investigating a sex

killing in Norway, but

becomes a haunting

study in guilt, duplicity

Out of Sight (15)

and sleeplessness.

Skjoldbjaerg

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar east stars Woody Allen (above) as a worker and who

becomes an opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while. My Name is Joe (15) All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film

- humour, indignation, emotional sympathy -

driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance

Director Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on

opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every

previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

as a recovering alcoholic. The Philadelphia Story

(U; Curzon Soho, NFT) As civilised and graceful as any romantic comedy ever made, it also brought together the most loveable of Hollywood trios - Katharine Hepburn. Cary Grant and James Stewart.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

The Invention of Love

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Theatre Royal, Haymarket A witty, heartbreaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend.

Little Malcolm and His Struggle

Against the Eunuchs Hampstead Theatre

Denis Lawson's superbly amusing cast are in no way eclipsed by screen-heartthrob Ewan McGregor, who briogs complexity to the

Kafka's Dick Piccadilly Theatre Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this hilarious

romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival.

The Seaguil West Yorkshire Playhouse

The new company of Jude Kelly, headed by Ian McKellen and Clare Higgins (right). kicks off with this Chekhov classic in a tempting season that will include The Tempest.

Twelfth Night

Crucible Theatre, Sheffield Perfectly thought-through production by Michael Grandage evokes an Illyria where storms rage as much within as without.

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine

Gallery Autohiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother! spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving. restoration and decay. To 10 Jan



Turner Prize Tate Gallery

Hugely popular competitive bash in which four artists show their wares. Works by this year's winner, Chris Ofili, are displayed alongside those of runners-up Tacita Dean. Cathy de Monchaux (above) and Sam Taylor-Wood. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley Abbott Hall, Kendal A retrospective on Riley's career from her early Spaties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid. To 17 Jan

Helen Chadwick Ferens Gallery, Hull The first overview since this influential UK artist's death mid-career in 1996. Lush light-boxes of fruit. flowers and fluids, and the last series, Unnatural Selection, showcasing IVF embryos. To 17 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

WEST END ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) Baker Street
Babe: Pig In The City 1,20pm,
3,40pm, 6,10pm, 8,40pm Fear
And Loathing In Las Vegas
2,25pm, 5,25pm, 8,15pm 7pm. 9.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET

CINEMA

(0870 9020404) Piccadilly (10870 9020404) Piccadilly Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm. 6pm, 8.25pm A Perfect Murder 2.40pm. 5.40pm, 8.20pm Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) © Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Vear of The Horse 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE 10870 9020402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.50pm The Wisdom of 1.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870 9020403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 15pm, 9.10pm The Governess 4.05cm. 6.25pm. 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 1.25pm. Revee Des Anges 1.25pm. 3.45pm. 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

ROAD (0870 9020414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.25pm. 6.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.35pm. 4pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm My Name ls Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 3.40pm. 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) — Barbican Babe: Pig In The City 6pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 6pm. 8.40pm

CHEISEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) \oplus 5loane Square On Connaît La Chanson 1pm. 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) ◆ Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 4.15pm. 6.45pm. The Exercise The 2.30pm The Exercise (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.30pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Victory 2pm The Wisdom of

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm Leicester Square/Tottenham
 Court Road The Eel 1.30pm. 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm lt's A Wonderful Life 12.45pm, 6.30pm The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) & Elephant & Castle Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 4pm. 6.20pm. 8.30pm Out of Sight 8.35pm Rush Hour 4,10pm. 6.30pm. 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE 3.45pm, 11.15pm Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm, 11.40pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm. i.50pm, 8.35pm, 11.20pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ◆ Notting Hill Gate it's A Wonderful Life .40pm Out of Sight 4.10pm. 5.40pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm

(0870-9070718) ← Ravens::ourt Park/Hammersmith Antz 2.30pm. 4.40pm, 6.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm. 8.50pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm. 6.20pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 1pm. 3.30pm. 6.10pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) & Charing Cross Anarchy In The UK?: Discussion 6.30pm Bernie 9.15pm Cinergy's Panto: Multi-Media Event 8.30pm Das Schloss 4.45pm,

(0171-734 1506) & Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 8.30pm Dead Man's Curve 6pm German Film Festival phone for Underground 10.45pm **CURZON MINEMA**

(0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park Corne Left Luggage 2.50pm. 6.50pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate The Negotiator 2.15pm.

5.15pm, 8.15pm ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
108705 050007) & Camden Town
Antz 12.55pm Babe: Pig In The
City 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm,
6.45pm, 8.55pm Blade 11.25pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas
11.30pm The Negotiator
12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm,
8.35pm, 11.20pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm, 11.15pm Ronin 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 11.30pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705 050007) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm,

ODEON KENSINGTON 9.15pm, 12.10am Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm, 12.10am Snake Eyes 1.45pm,

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705 050007) & Leicester Square Ronin 12.35pm. 3.10pm. 5.45pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH 7.05pm, 9.30pm, 11.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE 8.25pm Loca, Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE [08705 050007] & Swiss Cottage Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Babe: Pig In The Gty 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Elizabeth 12.10pm, 5.50pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.50pm. Luggage 1.30pm, 3.50pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Ronin 3pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (08705 050007) ← Leicester Square Les Miserables 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(494 4153) O Piccadilly Grous

Across The Sea of Time - A New

York Adventure (3-D) 12.45pm.

5.05pm Everest 3pm. 7.25pm, 9.30pm T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am. 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm. PHOENIX CINEMA

[0181-444 6789] ↔ East Finchley It's A Wonderful Life 1.55pm (+ 5hort) Left Luggage 4.40pm,

(0990-888990) & Piccadilly Circus
Antz 1.15pm, 3.40pm Rush Hour
1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm Saving Private Ryan
3.15pm, 7.15pm The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

(0171-837 8402] & Russell Square On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Knowledge of Healing 4,05pm Year of The Horse 1,50pm. 6.25pm, 8.45pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland The 6th London Turkish Film Festival Phone for details
Love Under Siege 6pm Mira Ma
Non Troppo 1,45pm Mixed Pizza
8.30pm The Town 4pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton (0171-133 2229) BRYO BINKON Antz 7.35pm Blade 8.50pm 11.30pm City of Lost Children 1.35pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease] 11.40pm It's A Wonderful Life 2.10pm, 4.50pm My Name is Joe 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm (+ 5hort: The Man Who held His Breath) Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, the 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm 9.15pm, 11.55pm (+ Short: Vacuum) Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.15pm 6.50sm, 9.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm The Truman Show 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ← Angel Buffalo 66 11.15pm My Name Is Joe 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) → Belsize Park

Dancing At Lughnasa 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm UCI WHITELEYS In The City 4pm, 4.50pm, 6.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Blade 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Negotiator 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Out of Sight 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Primary Colors 8.40pm Rouin 6.50pm, 9.20pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA

The Negotiator 12.40pm. 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm A Perfect Murder 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm There's 9.20pm Something About Mary 2.15pm.

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-9070712) → Piccadilly Circus Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 12.55pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-9070716) ↔ Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm. 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm Blade 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm Dead Man's Curve 12.10am Mean Guns 9pm, 11.10pm The Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm The r's Club 12midnight Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 10.10pm. 9.20pm, 11.40pm, 12.10pm The Truman

Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) ⊕ Leicester Square Blade 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, 12.05am The Exordst (25th Anniversary Exordst Rerelease] 12.30pm, 3.20pm. 6pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.50pm, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm, 11.15pm

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11,10pm Mulan 11,20am 5.50pm, 11,10pm Mulan 11,20am The Negotiator 12.10pm, 8.30pm, 3,10pm, 6.10pm, 12.10am A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 12.10am Rounders 5.55pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 7pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm, 10.50pm, 11.50pm,

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.55pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 2.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.05pm, 6.05pm, 7.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm Blade 1pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.50pm, 12.30am The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.40pm The Negotlator 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm, 12.20am Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10pm 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10pm The Player's Club 12.30am Ronto 9.05pm. 11.50pm Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.05pm, 3.40pm, 4.30pm, 11pm. 12.10am Snake Eyes 11.40pm There's Something About Mary 6.25pm

BARKING ODEON (08705 050007) & Bark-Ing Antz 12.10pm, 2.05pm, 4pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm,
3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm Blade
12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.30pmm Kuch Kuch Hota
Hal 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm Out
of Sight 5.55pm 8.30pm Rush Hour
12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm, 9pm

6.45pm, 9pm BARNET ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet Antz 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1,40pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm Blade 8.20pm Out of Sight 2pm,

5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm; Rush Hour

2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm BECKENHAM ABC (0870 902 0412) 8R: Beckenham Junction Antz 12.20pm, 5pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In The Oty 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Mulan 12.10pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 9.20pm Rush Hour 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

BROMLEY ODEON (08705 050007) 8R: Bromley North/Bromley South Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.05pm; Mon-Thu 2.05pm, 3.50pm Babe: Pig Iπ The City 2.55pm, 5.20pm, 7.35pm, 7.30pm, 10.05pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. Babe: Pig in The City 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East It's A Wonderful Life 2.45pm, 5.30pm. SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West

Croydon, Antz 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 6pm, 8pm Blade 10.15pm Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) 8R: East Croydon Antz 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 3.50pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm, 7.20pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm Blade 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, 12.05am The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.30pm The Negotiator 11.50am, 2.50pm. 5.50pm. 8.50pm, 11.55pm Out of Sight 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm, 9.20pm, 12.10am Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm.

12.25am There's Something About

DAGENHAM VILLAGE WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ♥ Dagenham Heathway Antz 2,30pm, 4,40pm, 6,40pm, 8,40pm 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Blade 3pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm The Exercise (25th Anniversary Rerelease] 11.50pm

The Negotiator 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm, 12.10am Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm Ronin Prog 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.20am Rush Hour 1pm, 1.50pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.20pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 1.30pm, 1.3 7pm, 9pm. 9,30pm, 11.30pm, 12midnight Snake Eyes 11.20pm There's Something About Mary

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Antz 2pm, 4pm, 6 15pm Babe; Pig

In The City 1.15pm. 3.30pm. 5.45pm. 8pm The Land Girls Tue 2.30pm. 5.30pm. 8.15pm Out of Sight 8.15pm Rush Hour 2.15pm. 4.30pm. 6.50pm. 9pm EDGWARE BELLE-VUE [0181-381 2556] ⊕ Edgware Bade Miyan Chote Miyan phone for times The Exor-cist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 5.15pm, 8.15pm Fire phone for times Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate Phone for details Kuch Kuch Hota Hai Phone for details Mehndi phone

for times Pardeshi Babu Phone for times EDMONTON

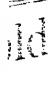
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tottenham Hale Antz 2.05pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.40pm; 2.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm. 3.30pm, 4.30pm. 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 11,15pm Blade 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 10.10pm 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 10.10pm
The Exercist (25th Anniversary
Rerelease) 6.10pm, 12midnight
Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 9.40pm The
Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.40pm, 11.50pm Out of Sight
3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm, 12.15am
The Player's Club 12.40am; MonThu 7.10pm, 9.50pm Ronin 3pm,
6.10pm, 9.30pm, 12.20am Rush
Hour 2.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm 6.10pm. 9:30pm. 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm. 7.30pm. 9pm. 10pm. 11.40pm. 12.30am Saving Private Ryan 8.50pm Small Soldiers 1.30pm. 3.50pm: Mon-Thu 1.50pm. 4.20pm There's Something About Mary 9.10pm Twilight 4.50pm, 7.40pm,

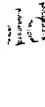
FELTHAM CINEWORLD THE MOVIES 10181-867 0555) 8R: Feltham Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Babe: Plg In The City 11am, 12noon, 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Blade 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.25am China Gate 1.50pm, 5.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.50pm Doli Sa-lake Rakhna 11.30am, 2.45pm, 5pm. 9.30pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12 Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 11.10am. Jhoole Bole Katuwa Kaate 11.10am. 2.30pm. 6.20pm. 9.45pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 1pm. 4.30pm. 8pm. 10pm. 12midnight Mehndi 11.30am. 6.20pm The Negotiator 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10pm Out of Sight 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm, 12.10am Pardeshl Babu 2.45pm. 2pm. 4.20pm. 6.40pm. 7.30pm. 8.50pm. 9.50pm. 11.15pm. 12.15am The Soldier (Asian Film) 12.15am 1.10 Bolder (Asian Film) 12noon, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.25pm There's Something About Mary 9.55pm The Truman Show 11.15am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm

FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 12.50pm. 3pm. 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1pm, 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 4.10pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 1.50pm; Mon-Thu 1pm. 2.20pm. 3.20pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.10nm. 8.30pm Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Elizabeth 1.20pm The Exercist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12 10am The Negotiator 2.50pm. 6pm. 9.10pm Out of Sight 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Ronin 4.05pm, 9.20pm, 9.20pm, 12midnight Rush Hour 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm. 11.30pm There's Something About Mary 6.50pm

ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9977) @ Finchley Road Antz 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10.15pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.20pm. 2.15pm, 3.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 9pm Blade 4.30pm. 10.10pm The Negotiator 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.45pm Out of Sight 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Ronin 1.30pm, 4.25pm, 7.15pm, 10pm Rounders 2pm, 7.25pm Rush Hour 1pn: 3.15pm. 5.35pm, 7.55pm, 10.25pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) Golders Green Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm





CINEMA [0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.45pm Antiversary Rerelease) 11.45pm The Negotiator 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 11.25pm Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 11.55pm

HAMPSTEAD Park Antz 1.40pm, 6.20pm Babe: Park Antz 1.40pm, 6.20pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm The Governess 3.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) + Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weald-stone China Gate Fri/Thu 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm; Mon 8.45pm; Iue 1.30pm, 5pm Doll Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Fire Mon/Wed 7pm; Tue 8.45pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 1,30pm, 5pm; Wed 8,45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) & Harrow on the Hill Antz 12.40pm. 2.40pm. 4.40pm. 6.40pm, 8.40pm Babe 11.40am. 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm. 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm Blade 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm. 9.10pm, 12.15am Elizabsth 1.20pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.50pm The Negotiator 11.20am, 2.30pm. Negotiator 11.20am. 2.30pm Negotiator 11.20am. 2.30pm S.50pm. 11.40pm Out of Sight 1.15pm. 3.55pm. 6.35pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm Ronin 4pm, 9.40pm, 12.10am Rush Hour 11.30am. 1.30pm. 2pm. 4pm. 4.30pm. 6.30pm. 7pm. 9pm. 9.30pm. 11.30pm. 12midnight Snake Eyes 9.50pm, 12.30am There's Something About Mary

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705-050007) @ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.30pm. 2,35pm. 4.30pm, 6.45pm; Mon-Thu 1.40pm, 3.45pm. 5.45pm; 7.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.05pm Blade 1.25pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.45pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9.25pm The Negotiator (2.15pm. 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Ronin 1.55pm, 4.30pm. 7.05pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.35pm, 1.05pm, 2.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.05pm, 5.35pm, 7.20pm, 7.50pm, 9.35pm, 10.05pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn Dancing At Lugh-nasa 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409). BR; Kingston Antz 6pm Babe; Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 8.15pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.10pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3,50pm, 6,15pm, 8.40pm

PECKHAM-PREMIER [0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 4.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Blade 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm, 11.50pm Elizabeth 7 pm 11.25pm Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm The Player's Club 11.30pm Ronin 9,10pm, 11,45pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Woo 12,10am

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Ancz 1.40pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 2.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 5.20pm, 8pm Rush Hour 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

PUTNEY ABC [0870-9020401) O Putney Bridge. 8R: Putney. Antz 4.15pm; Mon-Thu 5.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 1.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 2.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm

RICHMOND ODEON (08705-050007) BR/Richmond Babe: Pig in The City 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 12,30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Blade 9.10pm Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm 9.20pm Elizabeth 6.30pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Romn 1pm, 3.40pm, 9pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romlord. Antz 5.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 12noon. 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Blade 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm The Negociator 12.20pm, 3.10pm. 6pm. 8.50pm Out of Sight 1.10pm. 3.45pm. 6.20pm. 9pm Ronin 5.45pm. 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.15pm. 1.50pm. 3.30pm. 4.15pm. 6pm. 6.50pm. 8.30pm. 9.20pm Small Soldlers 12.50pm, 3.20pm There's Something About Mary 8.20pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood Antz 2.15pm. 4.30pm. 6.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm. 3.45pm. 6pm. 8.15pm Blade 1pm. 3.45pm. 6.30pm. 9.15pm. 12midnight The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.30pm The Negotiator 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm, 11.45pm Out of Sight 12.40pm. 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.45pm, 11.30pm Ronin 9pm, 12midnight Rush Hour Ipm. 4.15pm. 6.40pm, 9pm, 12midnight

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham HIII Antz 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Babe: Pig

In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight

STREATHAM (08705-050007) ODEON BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm. 2.30pm. 4.50pm. 7.10pm, 9.30pm; Mon-Thu 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Blade 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm; Mon-Thu 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 12.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Ronin 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm 7.20pm. 9.40pm

NEW PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Antz 1.40pm. 6.05pm Babe: Pig in The City 2.10pm. 4.25pm. 6.35pm. 8.45pm It's A Wonderful Life 7.45pm The Negotlator 3.20pm, 7.45pm 10.30pm Out of Sight 2.30pm 5pm 9.55pm Rush Hour 1.45pm 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm,

The Wisdom

941

Crocodiles 10.50pm

SURREY QUAYS

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990-888990) — Surrey Quays
Antz 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm,
Babe: Pig in The City 2pm, 2.40pm,
4.30pm, 5pm, 6.50pm, 7.25pm,
9.25pm Blade 6pm, 8.40pm,
11.30pm Elizabeth Fri-11.30pm Elizabeth Fri-Mon/Wed/Thu 5.50pm The Exorcist [2Sth Anniversary Rerelease] 11.40pm The Last Days of Disco 11.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm Lock, 11.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 11.55pm Mulan 1.45pm, 3.45pm The Negotiator 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 0ut of Sight 4.10pm, 7pm, 10pm The Player's Club 11.50pm Ronin 9.15pm Rounders 9.50pm Rush Hour 2.10pm 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.15pm, 7.10pm, 8.55pm, 9.40pm, 12.05am Small Soldiers 3.20pm There's Something About Mary 9pm

SUTTON 11.25pm Blade 9.55pm Elizabeth 3.15pm. 6pm The Exordst (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.25am Freeriders Tue 6.30pm The Negotiator 9.05pm Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.50pm. 6.35pm, 9.40pm, 12.25am Ronin 7.10pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.25pm. 6.50pm, 9.25pm, 11.45pm Saving Private Ryan 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 12midnight Velvet Goldmine 12.10apm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) © Turripike Lane. Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight Lane. Antz 3.45pm 8.35pm Rush Hour 4.10pm 6.30pm. 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE UXBRIDGE ODEON (0.8705 0.50007) & Uxbridge Antz 2pm. 4pm; Mon-Thu 1.45pm, 3.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 2.45pm, 5pm. 7.15pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.05pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) Waltham-ABC (0870-902 0424) • Waltmam-stow Central Antz 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.40pm. 3.45pm, 6.15pm. 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.15pm. 8.10pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Antz 3,45pm, 5,40pm Babe: Pig in The City 4pm, 6,20pm, 8,30pm Out of Sight 8,35pm

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) • Willesden Green The Exorcist [25th Anniversary Rerelease] 4pm,

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Wimbledon/O South Wimbledon Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm, 6,45pm Babe; Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm Blade 8.35, 11,15pm The Exercist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.15pm Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3pm. 5.45pm, 8.30pm Ronin 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm Still Crazy

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON WOOD GREEN [0181-347 6664] & Turnpike Lane Bade Miyan Chote Miyan 12noon Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 3,30pm Mehr dl 7.15pm, 10.45pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodlord Antz 2.25pm, 5.30pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 8.10pm Ronin 8.10pm 5mall Soldiers 5pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm

CINEMA

LONDON

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place 5W7 0171-838 2144/2146 Un indlen dans la ville 7.30pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 0171-684 0201 Projection As Event: Expanded Cinema Of The Structural Era: Shorts 8pm

NFT South Bank 5E1 0171-928 3232 Flame In The Streets [15] 2.30 pm Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story (15) 6.10pm Manbattan (15) 6.15pm Sunrise - A Song of Two Humans (PG) 7.30pm Enter The Dragon (18) 8.45pm The Philadelphia Story (U) 8.30pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place

WC2 0171-437 8181 The Spanish Prisoner (PG) 1pm Halloween: H20 18) 3.45pm Razor Blade 5mile [18] 9pm RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road

W6 0171-420 0100 Sekal Has To Die (18) 7.55pm + Short

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High breet 0181-568 1176 Left Luggage (PG) 1.30pm, 8.30pm Still Crazy

DUKE OF YORK'S 01273-602503

The Eel (18) 1.45pm, 6.30pm Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 4.15pm, 9pm The Omen (18) 11.15pm

BRISTOL CUBE (0114-907 4191) Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas (18) 7pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary lerelease) (18) 9.30pm, 12am WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) MV

Name Is Joe [15] 6pm, 8.20pm La Vie Revée Des Anges (18) 6.05pm. CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA 01223-504444 Funny Games (18) 12.45pm,

7.15pm Dancing At Lughnasa (PG 3pm, 9.15pm The Last Days Of Dis co (15) 11.30pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Funny Games (18) 7.30pm Henry Fool (18) 8.20pm The Land Girls (12) 6.15pm

FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 The Adventures Of Robin Hood (U) 6pm 5even (18) 6pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Elizabeth (15) 5.45pm My Name Is Joe (15) 8.15pm Kurt & v (15) 11.15pm

TEWKESBURY ROSES THEATRE (01684-295074)

Elizabeth (15) 7.30pm

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today; dimes and prices for the week; running dmes include intervals.

Seats at all prices 0 — Seats at some prices 0 — Returns only Madnees — [1]: Surr. (3): Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, (7): Sat

ABOUT THE BOY Three friends and their respective problems are put under the microscope in Ed Hime's new drama. Preceded by e new short, 822. Royal Court Upstaks (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq. WC2 (0171-393 3000) & Leic Sq. 4, 5, 14-18 Dec. 7.15pm, 10p-£10, Mon - all seats £5, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy, about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages, stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 [0171-494 5065] & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5[[7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/& Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

DANNIE Rags-to-riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

O ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy neary in Yasmma Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wynd-ham's Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) O Lek Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm. [7][1) 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35

THE BEST OF TIMES Bevue-style show featuring the songs of Jer-ry Herman. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 [0171-836 9987] BR/& Charing X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

• BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-ruming Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) Deic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32,50. 165 mins,

● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Bichie stars in a new 1970s musical, Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) & Charing X/Embank-ment, Mon-Thur 8pm. Frl-5at 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50, 150 mins,

 BUDDY Musical bing-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly.
 Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ♦ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, Fri mats half orice. 160 mins.

D CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ◆ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3[[7] 3pm, £12.50-£35.165 mins.

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broaden and their nightchih act. Adelph! Maiden Lane, WC2 [0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £16-£36 [incl booking fee). 130 mins.

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespea Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 5pm. [1) 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats

▶ DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins. son Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344

(0171-416 6022) Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. (4)[7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50. 150 mins. • FAME THE MUSICAL High-

octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of e class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) + Leic Sq/Picc. Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm. Fri 5.30pm 6 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16

FOUR Richard Wilson directs Christopher Shinn's debut work. Preceded by a short, The Crutch. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. 4-5. 14 Dec. 9pm. 10p-£10, Mon - all seats £5, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night

 GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an Amer ican high school. Cambridge Earfham Street. WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. 4[(7(3pm. £10-£30.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045 e Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, (5) 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm. [4] 2.30pm. [7] 5pm, E10.S0-E2S. 110 mins.

·) INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairy tales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. (4)[7) 2.30pm. £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOES

Stoppard's play about the life of po-et AE Houseman, euthor of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal. narket Havmarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4[[7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 180 mlns. • KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Ben-nett's comedy about the moribund

writer Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ↔ Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

. LOVE UPON THE THRONE l'asteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street. SW1 (0171-369 1731) O Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8p [4][7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan, £6-£25.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's sprawing 19th century masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Proc Circ. Monsat 7.30pm, [5[[7] 2.30pm, £7-£35.]

MISS SAIGON Musical which re-Vicinam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35.

b THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's wbodumit, still going strong St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mins. O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Haymarket. SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.4Spm. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

• RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-herne and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Av-enue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/fott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. (4)[7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROVAL NATIONAL THEATRE LYTTELION: Betrayal Pinter's defining work stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Bodge. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, continuing. 90 mins.

COTTESLOE: Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, continuing. Olivi-er & Lytteiton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/O Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAMESPEARE COMPANY

THE BARBICAN: The Merchant
of Venice RSC production of Shakespeare's drama about love and mey. Tonight 7,15pm, continuing. THE PTI: Shadows: Riders to the

Sea & The Shadow of the Glen & Purgatory Triple bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge, Tonight 7.15pm, continuing, Barbican The-atre: £5-£26, The Pit; 11-£18.50, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/@ Barbican, O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIS

1970s musical featuring legendary songs plus three new tracksby the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcis. London Palladium Argyll Street. WI (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50. 135 mins. • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew

Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musi

cal Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Vic-toria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3)[7] 3pm. £12,50-£30. 150 mins. I THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Befinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street,

WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) → Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5[[7] 3pm, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and eramines ideas of ghosts and angels, Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) 5t Martin's Lane, WC2

4444) & Covent Galden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEIDA THEATRE The Storm

Frank McGuinness' oew version of Ostrovsky's uplifting drama. Mon-Sat

7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 19 Dec. £6.50-£19.50. Almeida Street.

CANAL CAFE THEATRE Shent Night Steven Berkoff's tale of

Christmas loneliness receives its stage premiere. Tue-Sat 8pm, ends

Pub, Delamere Terrace, W2 (0171-289 6054) → Royal Oak/

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little

Malcolm and His Struggle Against The Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David

mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-

£16, concs £6. Avenue Road, NW3

(0171-722 9301) + Swiss Cottage.

LYRIC STUDIO Fourteen Songs,

Two Weddings and a Funeral Stage version of a Bollywood blockbuster.

Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 5 Dec. £9, concs

THEATRE

COUNTRYWIDE

THE RONDO Love of the Nightin-gale Timberlake Wertenbaker's tale of lust and imposence is set in Ancient

Greece. Tonight 8pm. £5, corics £4. St Saviours Road (01225-448831)

THEATRE ROYAL Popcorn Emms

Noble stars in Ben Elton's satire oo

cinema violence. 4 & 5 Dec. 6pm & 9pm, £11-£21, cones available. Sawclose (01225-448844)

Hood and the Enchanted Forest

The Merry Men encounter magic and maybem in the heart of Sherwood Forest. 4 Dec. 7.30pm. 5 Dec.

6.30pm, mat today 10.30am, ends 5 Dec. £6, concs £5.50. Bryanston

BLANDFORD FORUM

(01258-456533)

£5. King Street. W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith.

Halliwell's drama, Mon-Sat 81

12 Dec. £6. concs £4. Bridge Hous

N1 (0171-359 4404) & Angel.

(0171-565 5000) ← Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4]]7] 3.30pm, £5-£25, 90 mins. D WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic (01608-642350)

musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. COLCHESTER Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) @ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5[[7] 3pm £15,£35 160 mins ONIN BHT WOOD BUTSHIND C Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name about two children who mistake an escaped

convict for God. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE The Taming om, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] THE WOMAN IN BLACK Acclaimed adaptation of Susan Hill's

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD OLD TOWN HALL ARTS CENTRE Richard RI A provocative adaptation

WOLSEY THEATRE Macbeth Wolsey Thesire's production is given a post nuclear bolocaust setting. Tue-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8pm. mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm. ends 5 Dec. £5-£14, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

VEWBURY & 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £9.50-£14, concs available. Bagnor 101635-46044)

PLYMOUTH BARBICAN THEATRE The Tailors Absurdiat physical theatre from Leikin Loppu. Tonight 7.30pm. £6.50. concs £4.50. Castle Street (01752-267131)

READING per daughter from their atte meal. Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE The Rocky Horror Show Jason Donovan stars in the 25th-anniversary tour 4 & S Dec

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic, 4 Dec. 7.15pm. ds Feb 27. £5-£30. Waterside

(01789-295623) SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgener's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Michael Altenborough directs. Tonight 7.30pm. ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call PIERRE MARIVAUX'S psychological insights and sophisticated plots, have only recently been considered alongside the work of other great French dramatists such as Molière and Racine, Originally trained as a journalist, his writing style is exemplified in The Dispute, an exploration of four children who

have been locked away in complete isolation since birth and then are released into the world. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 (0181-741 2311) opens 15 Feb

Last Call

BJORN AGAIN (right) are one of the most popular tribute bands around today, with their precise reproduction of mannerisms, dance routines and vocals of the Swedish quartet Abba. Their sct is a celebration of the Seventies complete with ridiculous wigs, tight clothes and extravagant make-up. Ten years on, there's no sign of "Dancing Queen" losing its appeal.

Town and Country Club, Leeds (0113-280 0100) 2 Dec. Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-552 4601) 10 Dec; The Caird Hall, Dundee 101382 434940) 11 Dec: Clyde Auditorium, Glasgow (0141-248 3000) 12 & 13 Dec; Playhouse, Edinburgh (0131-557 2590) 14 Dec

BRACKNELL WILDE THEATRE Pinocchio **EXHIBITIONS** Classic tale of the wooden pupper who dreams of becoming a real boy. Tonight 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £10, concs £8. South Hill Park

BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition marking the centenary of his birth. Mon. Tur-Thur-Sat 10an-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Church Street (01273-290900) THEATRE ROYAL The Woman in Black Frank Finley stars in a chill-ing adaptation of Susan Hill's high-ly acclaimed novel. 4 & 5 Dec. 7.45pm. £7.50-£15.50, concs avail-

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE Animal able. Bond 5treet (01273-328488) Farm: Ralph Steadman Specially commissioned drawings illustrating KOMEDIA Sell Out Frantic Assembly's latest multi-media performance. 4 & 5 Dec. 8pm. £7.50, concs E6. Gardner 5treet (01273-277772) Orwell's novel. Mon-5un 10am-6pm, ends 5 Dec, free, University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

NEW VIC STUDIO DISCO PIES Acclaimed contemporary love story from Enda Walsh. 4 & 5 Dec 8pm. £9, concs £6. King 5preel (0117-987 7877)

THEATRE ROYAL A Christmas Carol Andy Hay's adaptation of Dickens's Christmas classic, Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat, 2.30pm, ends 5 Dec. £5-£19, concs £3-£16. King 5treet (0117-987 7877)

CAMBRIDGE DRAMA CENTRE Dirty Work Provocative piece from Forced Entertainment, 4 & 5 Dec. 8pm. £7.50, concs £5. Covent Garden (01223-322748)

(01344-484123)

BRIGHTON

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save the World New adven-ture, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999, Today 10am & 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-£10, concs available. Sen-ghenydd Road [01222-230451] CHELTENHAM

EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin Princesses, pagodas and antics in Peking, Tonight 7.15pm, ends 16 Jan. £4.50-£13. Regent 5treet [01242-572573] CHIPPING NORTON

CHIPPING NORTON THEATRE All Baba and the 40 Thieres Parito taken from the Arabian Nights. Today 2 pm & 7.30pm, ends 16Jan. £7,75-£14.75. Spring Street

MERCURY THEATRE The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. 4 & 5 Dec. 8pm. £6.50-£15.50, concs available. Balkerne Gate (01206-573948)

of the Shrew Battle of the sense comedy from English Touring The-atre. 4 & 5 Dec., 7.30pm. £10-£14. Home Gardens [01322-220000]

4 & 5 Dec, 8pm, £9, cond 5treet [01442-228091]

WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard of Ox Follow Dorothy down the Yellow Brick Road, 4 Dec, 10.30am

OXFORD PLAYHOUSE THEATRE CINCERELIA Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation. Today 5.30pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan, £5-£16.50. Beaumont Street (01865-

THE MILL AT SONNING Worm' Eye View Comedy about a landlad forced to house airmen and protect Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mat Sat 2.15pm, ends 9 Jan, £21.95-£32.95 incl

Spm & 9pm, £10-£22, concs available Commercial Road (01703-711811)

ST IVES

the artist's birthplace. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach [01736-796226] (01789-295623)

CLASSICAL

CARDIFF
ST DAVID'S HALL BBC National
Orchestra of Wales/Ocaka Rachmaninor's Pogonini Rhopaody and
Act II of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker.
Yonight 7.30pm. £7-£20. The Hayes
(01 222-878444)

4th Horn Concerto and Dvorak's 8th Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£12. Smith Square. SW1 (0171-222 1061) • Westminster.

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM From Poli-doro to Sawator Rosa Drawings and prints forming the best of Italian Baroque, Ends 23 Dec.

British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Inchding works by Turner and Constable. Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistler, Fantin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-Spm, Sun 2,15pm-Spm, ends 14 Feb, Iree. Trumpington 5treet (01223-332900)

ANTHONY D'OFFAY Rachel Whiteread Four new pieces by the leading contemporarty artist. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm. Sat 10am-1pm, ends 16Jan, free, Dering Street, W1 (0171-499 4100) ⊕ Bond Street. ICA GALLERY Die Young Stay

Pretry Sculpture, collage, paintings and cut outs by 11 young, remantic artists. Mon-Sun 12noon-7.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £1.50, concs £1, Sat-Sun £2.50, concs £1.50. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) ← Charing

NATIONAL GALLERY Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller On Reflection Mirrors and reflections in art from Van Eyck to Helen Chadwick. Ends 13 Dec. £5.50, concs £3.50, incl audio guide. Luca Signorelli in Bridsh Collections Drawings and paintings by the artist

Michelangelo. Mon & Tue. Thur-Sat 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free, Tralalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) + Charing Cross. ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Critical Mass: Antony Gormley Sixty casts of burnan bodies. Mon-Sun all day, ends 16 Dec. free. Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay Exploring the ceramic works of the 20th-century artist, Ends 16 Dec. E7. OAP/UB40 £6, NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Life? or Theatre?: the Work Charlotte Salomon Powerful pai ings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. E5.50, UB40/OAP E4.50, NUS E4, child 12-18 F2 50, child 8-11 F1, Burlington

House, Piccadilly, W1 [0171-300 8000) Green Park. TATE GALLERY In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Slubbs and Holbein, Ends 28 Feb. free Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Ofili, Cathy De Monchaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Ends 10 Jan. £1.50.

John Singer Sargent Comprehen-sive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19th-century artist. Ends 17 Jan. E6. concs £4. Art Now 16: Something is Missing - Jean-Marc Bustamante Installation exploring international cities in photographs. Opens 1 Dec. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm. ends Jan 31. free. Millbank. 5W1 (0171-887 8000). P Emilico

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 drawings and priots. Ends 10 Jan. Grinling Globons and the Art of Carving Work by the 17th-ceotury woodcarver. Ends 24 Jan. Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshaw Precious-metal jewellery. Ends 15

Eisewhwere - Photographs From the Americas and Asia: Henri Cartler-Bresson Lesser-known subjects by the 90 year-old photog-rapher. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 103m-5.45pm, ends 12 Apr. £5. concs £3, under 18s/UB40/mems/disabled/NUS/after 4.30pm free. Cromwell Road. 5W7 (0171-938 8441) South

MAIDSTONE
MAIDSTONE MUSEUM and ART GALLERY The Disparates: Goya Late satirical elchings by the Spanish muster. Mon-Sat 10am-5.15pm, Sun 11am-4pm, ends 3 Jan. phone for prices. St Faith's Street (01622-754497)

ST IVES
ST IVES TATE GALLERY English
Shows End Cameron Layers of paint Roots: Eric Cameron Layers of paint surrouodiog organic objects. Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Works from the second half of the century. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Rvan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SOUARE Insurance Orchestra/Lipari Mozart's

WIGMORE HALL Sumi Jo The soprano with an eclectic song selec-tion. Tonight 7.30pm. £9-£19. Wigmore Street, W1 (017:-935 2141)

Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

OPERA

LONDON THE GLADYS CHILD THEATRE lolanthe Gilbert and Sullivan's com-ic classic in a production by South-

DANCE BRISTOL HIPPODROME THEATRE English National Ballet: The Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky's score. Tonight 7.30pm. £17-£29.50, 5t. Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444) LONDON PURCELL ROOM Sakoba Dance Theatre: Myths Short works of con-Ineatre: Myths Short works of con-temporary African dance exploring at the human life cycle. Tonight 8pm. £10, concs £8. South Bank, 5£1 (0171-960 4242) BR/

ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight per-formers create a witty rhythmic symptony. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat who influenced Raphael and & Sun 4pm, ends 27 Dec. £10-£25. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 [0171-420 0000) + Chalk Farm.

LITERATURE

CHELMSFORD THE HOLLY AND THE IVY Embrace the Christmas spirit with an evening of poetry, prose and songs. Old Court Theatre Springfield Road (01245-251554/cc 359126) Tonight 7.45pm, £4, concs £3.

LONDON PRIVATE EYE SIGNING SESSION With Ian Hislop, Barry Fantoni and Nick Newman. Waterstone's Whit-Ineton Avenue Leadenhall Marke ument. Today 1pm-2pm, Iree.

COMEDY

BRIGHTON

AL MURRAY - KEEPER OF THE
PINT COSMIC AT KOMEDIA The
Table and and thrice nominated for Pub Landlord, thrice nominated for a Perrier award. Tonight 10pm, £8.50, concs £6. Gardner Street (01273-277772)

LENNY BEIGE: ONE MAN AND HIS TALENT AT CRITERION THEATRE The showbiz croocer incorporate audience interaction and special

FRIDAY NIGHT UP THE CREEK Stu Who?, Ian Moore, The Man With The Beard, MC Lee Mack, Tonght 8pm, £10, concs £6. Creek Road, S£10 (0181-858 4581) BR: Greenwich JONGLEURS BATTERSEA Tim Clark, Gina Yashere, Sean Percival Canadian comic Mike Wilmot, Ricky Grover, Tonight 8.45pm, £12, concs £8. Lavender Galdens, SW11 (0171-

564 2500) BR: Clapham Junction. SOUTHAMPTON LEE HURST - UN-IRONED AT THE GUILDHALL The former star of They Think It's All Over. Tonight 7.30pm, £10 & £12. NorthGuild. Commercial Road (01703-632601)

CLUBS

BOURNEMOUTH SLINKY AT THE OPERA HOUSE Starring Seb Fontaine and Tall Paul Tonight 9pm-3am, £8, £6 before Tonight 9pm-3am, £8, £6 before 10pm. Christchurch Road (01202-

LONDON LONDON
PASSENGER ROYALE AT 333 Fabio.
The Preestylers and J Majik drop the heats. Tonight 10pm-Sam. Old Street.
EC1 (0171-739 5949) BR:9 Old Street, £10, £8 before 11pm

SKINT AT THE END With Fathoy Slim, Lo Fidelity Allstars and Sparky Lightbourne. Tonight 10pm-5am, West Central Street, WC1 10171-419 9199) Holborn, £13, £11, £9 after 3am.

CHRISTMAS AT CLAVERTON EXHIBITION See how Americans tra-ditionally decorated their homes at Christmas, from the New England Puritans to New Orleans during the Civil War. Plus gifts and refreshments. American Museum in Britain Claverton Manor (01225, 460503) Tue-Sun 1 pm-4pm, ends R. Dec. £3.

LONDON LONDON
CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS FAIR
A wide range of original new work, including ceramics, textiles, glassware
and jewellery, by over 80 designers.
Richmond Adult and Community
College (0181-948 7662) Fri & Sat
10am-6.30pm. Sun 10am-5.30pm.
£4, under 14s free.

SWINDON COUNTRY HOUSE CHRISTMAS A chance to see a Victorian style Christ-mas with the State Rooms decked in greenery gathered from the Park. Ly-diard House Lydiard Country Park (01793-770401) Mon-Fri 10am-lpm, 2pm-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 31 Dec, 80p. child

MUSIC

BRISTOL JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHES-TRA Boogie-woogie piano genhis
TV star at the helm of his R&B big Derek Deane's stagiog with band. Colston Hall Colston Street (0117-922 3686/cc 922 3683) Yonight 7.30pm, phone for prices.

> HEREFORD JAMES, GENE Tim Booth's seminal Manchester pop band play their re-cent greatest hits album, proving they're still a potent force in the pos. Britpop era, Hereford Leisure Centre Holmer Road (01432-278178) Tonight 8pm, £16.

LONDON HENRY ROLLINS Spoken word tour for the hardcore singer and literary figure, touring his new double CD, Think Tunk. Astoria Charing Cross Road WCZ (0171-434 0403) & fottenham Court Road. Tonight 7pm,

THE SAW DOCTORS Irish rock with stroog country-folk leanings, com-manding a loyal local following. To-Forum Highgate Road NW5 (01 %). 1 344 0044) Tube/BR: Kentish Town. Tonight 8pm, £12.50. SHALAMAR, THE REAL THING,

HEATWAVE Disco revival night fea-

turing some of the glitteriest groovers

from the 1980s dance scene. Hackney Empire Mare Street E8 (0181-985 2424) 8R: Hackney Central Tonight 7.30pm, £13.50-£15.50. MASSIVE ATTACK The Bristol dub dance heroes brush off the royals and take their sounds on the road. London Arena Limeharbour, Isle of Dogs E14 (0171-538 1212) DLR: Cross

Harbour, Tonight 7pm, £17.50. ELLIOTT SMITH, OUASI Leading American lo-u songwriter, an Oscar numination in his pocket, plays his fourth album X. University of London Union Maler Street WC1' Conight 8pm, £8

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

DORCHESTER 5HOW OF HANDS Leading West Country acoustic folk duo. Corn Exchange High East Street (01305-266926) Tonight 8pm, £8.

LE MYSTERE DES VOIX BULGARE5 The female Bulgarian choir sing their latest album of haunt-ing and ethereel vocal music. Barbican Hall Barbican Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891)

Moorgate/Barbican, Tonight 7.30pm, £10-£20. ROY AYERS' UBIQUITY Vibes mae-

stro well loved by acid-jazz set. Jazz Care Parkway NW1 (0171-916 8.30pm, £15, adv £16, adv £13.50. MARTIN TAYLOR/BIRELLI LAGRENE Virtouso jazz guitar pair-ing. Pizza Express Jazz Cuto Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ham Court Road. Tonight 7.30pm & 10.30pm, £20,

RAY GASKINS High octane Soul-jazz saxophonist of Roy Ayers farre. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) & Leicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm. £15, mems £8. RUBEN GONZALES/AFRO CUBAN ALLSTARS Explore the roots of sal-sa with this Cuban piano veteran plus sa win in schwan piano veneran pians star-studded son outfit. Royal Festival Hall South Bank SE1 10171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£25.

MAIDSTONE
ART THEMEN WITH THE MICHAEL
GARRRICK OUARTET Mainstream MAIDSTONE lenor veteran from the Coltrane school, Pizza Express Earl Street 101622-6835481 Tonight 15pm, EB.50.

EVENTS

RADIO 3 .02 -MHZ FM) 6.00 On Am 9.00 Vasterworks 10.30 Artist of the 11.00 Sound Store 12.00 Cemposer o 1.00 The Radio 3 E 2.00 The BBC ON 1.00 Yusic Restor 4.45 ...s.: Machin

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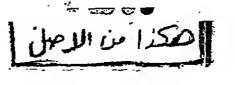
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FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Salection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 -7.00 Scott Mills:

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 John Inverdale. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam. 7.00 Hubert Gregg. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night: Live from the Guildhall, Preston. Ken Bruce introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Roderick Dunk, with guest artists Claire Moore, Glyn Kerslake and the Grimethorpe Colliery RJB Band. At 8.15, during the interval, Brian Kay introducee an item by percussionist Evelyn Glennie. 9.15 Wuthering Heights. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10-00 David Jacobs. 10-30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00 Nicky Horne. 4.00 - 6.00 Lata Sharma.

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RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.60 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from St David's Hall, Cardiff. Conductor Tadaaki Otaka, Howard Shelley (piano), BBC National Chorus of Wales. William Mathias: Ave rex. Puccini: Manon Lescaut (Intermezzo to Act 3). Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. 8.15 The House of Fear. The third of four interval programmes of readings from the surrealist works of Leonora Carrington. 1: 'Royalmmons'. Reader Kate Beckinsale. 2: 'The Seventh Horse'. Reader Eleanor Bron. 8.35 Concert, part 2.

6,00 The incredible Journey (1963) (34015).

8.00 Lies He Told (1996) (55810). 10.00 Stepping Out (1991) (16568). 12.00 The in-credible Journey (1963) (45433). 2.00 Lies

He Told (1996) (48181), 4,00 Stepping Out (1991), (3278), 6,00 Green Card (1990)

(35617), 8.00 Powdes (1995) (30162), 10.00

Jerry Meguire (1996) (33381568). 12.20

Roommates (1995) (487105). 430 - 6.00

Stealing Beauty (1996) (592259), 2.20

6.00 Goddess of Love (1988) (98839).

(49617), 1.00 Goddess of Love (1966)

(1991) (67758), 7.00 Preview (9029), 7.30 Top Ten (8433), 9.00 Femmes Fatales

2549, 8.30 Movie Magic (4384), 9.00

Anaconda (1997) (44984). See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Rattled (1996) (63297). See

2.05 Mind Breakers (1996) (468105). 3.40

4.00 White Tower (1950) (7965655). 6.00

Call Northside 777 (1948) (937/1617). 6.00 Days of Wine and Roses (1963) (9378/162).

(4216075). **11.55** Directors (9282146). **12.55** None Shall Escape (1944) (35345016). **2.25**

Two for the Road (1967) (8059230). 4.20-

10.00 The Stars Look Down (1939)

5.50 The Lineup (1958) (80506940).

6.00 Short Attention Span Cinema 2504758), 8.00 Muriel's Wedding (1994

(2403075). 10,000 Karna Sutra: e Tale of

Love (1996) (8553636). 12.00 Matador

(1986) (7165360). 1.45 The Tit and the Moon (1995) (4165582), 3.50 My Own Private Idaho (1991) (2926785), 4.50 - 9.00

The Fireman's Ball (1968) (7180360).

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World (8317278)

(8320742). 9.00 Animal Doctor (8327655)

6.30 Cheetah: the Winning Streek (Wild Discovery) (2887568) 7.30 Seyond 2000

(8307891). 9.00 The Best of Discovery: HMS Pandora - in the Wake of the Bounty

(5020810). **10.00** Real Lives: Shops and Robbers (5030297). **11.00** Weapons of War

(5017346). 9.00 Crocodie Hunter

4.30 Walker's World (8306162), 5.00 Flight Deck (2766471), 5.30 Ancient Werriors

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Pick of the Day. 12.00 Tremors (1990)

(190940), 1.35 Movie Magic (4654495)

- 6.00 The Fly II (1989) (48004105).

SKY CINEMA

FILMFOUR

48520, 3.00 The Last Best Year (1990)

(49278). 5.00 End of the Golden Weather

7.30 The Last Best Year (1990) (76568094). 9.15 The End of the Golden Weather (1991)

(44219471). 11.00 Earth Minus Zero (1996)

Strictly Business (1991) (399292).

SKY MOVIENAX

SKY PREMIER

PICK OF THE DAY

TWO STORIES about the business is quietly going down prejudices that have shaped the toilet. John Fletcher inclines British society: Waiting for the to stereotype, but it's pacy and Earth to Move (9pm R4) is a drama about Nick Leeson (right), the rogue trader who brought down Barings Bank, Andrew Lincoln, Egg in This Life, plays Leeson, while Richard Briers cereer vanished and, even plays an emblematic old banker, more interestingly, why his heading off for evenings in the

well-explained.

Looking Back to Arthur (11.30pm R4) examines the case of Arthur Wharton, Britain's first black footballer, why his name is now being revived. ROBERT HANKS



Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (Act 2).

bar et Covent Garden while his

9.30 Postscript. Five monologues about women. 5: 'Granny Grimshaw'. Played by Angela Curran. Granny Grimshaw is no longer the strong woman she used to he and has had to move in with her middle-aged daughter and her 'friend'. 9.40 Chopin. Fantasy in F minor, Op 49. Harold Bauer (piano). 10.00 Hear and Now. More from the annual festival of new music in Huddersfield. Tonight, a concert given by the Belgian ensemble Champs d'Action as they make their debut at the festival, bringing with them works by the lete Karel Goeyvaerts - an enigmatic figure who helped to pioneer the development of postwar serial composition. Verity Sharp introduces his Piano Quartet and 'Litanie IV' as well as music by one of this year's featured composers, George Crumb. His 'Quest' for quitar and ensemble is hie most recent score. Plue late-night improvisetions for double bass and synthesisers from Terry Riley and Stefano Scodanibbio.

11.30 Punk Jazz. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Josquin. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM) **6.00** Today. 9.00 NEWS; Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: Berrow's Boys. 10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Strictly Conventional 11.30 Girlies. (R) 12-00 NEWS; You and Yours.

12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World et One. 1.30 Screen Test. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: A Mermaid at Zennor. 3.00 NEWS; Making History. 3.30 Songlines. 3.45 Feedback.

4.00 NEWS; How the Stories Took Over. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 True Lies. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the nightly arts programme. 7.45 Still Waters. Part 20 by Ann Marie Di Mambro end Cally

Phillips. Kate's birthday looms and Charlie has a proposal, Meanwhile, en encounter with the mysterious Viske has e profound effect on Douglas, and Frenkie Callaghan has big plans for Joanna. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan. Director David Jackson Young. 8.00 NEWS; Any Questions?.

Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Scunthorpe by panellists including Val Evans of the Women's National Congress, Derek Fatchett MP and Dave Rix of ASLEF. 8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Ameri-

9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: Waiting for the Earth to Move.

John Fletcher's new pley tells the story of Nick Leason and the collapse of Barings Bank. With Richard Briers, Peul Chan, Leena Dhingra end Andrew Lincoln. Directors Catherine Bailey and John Dove. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Berker's new novel, e fractious family and a dying sol-

dier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present Abridged by Doreen Estall, reed by Robert Glenister (10/10). 11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldrovd hosts the late-night sports chet show. Sports sponsorship is the subject on the agenda in this edition, which comes from

Sheffield. 11.30 Looking Back to Arthur. See Pick of the Dey. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: A Man in

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Preyer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Undate 5.56 - 6.00 Weather, **RADIO 4 LW** MORKHZ)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breekfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Middey News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alen Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his guests look back over the week and preview the weekend's sporting action. 10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Heyes. Including Papertalk, 1030 Sport, 1100 News, 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Brahms: Academic Festival Overture. Berlin PO/Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Brahms: Schicksalslied, Op 54. Ernst Senff Chorus, Berlin PO/Claudio Abbado. Ortt. Carmina Purana. Sumi Jo (soprano), RPO/Zubin Mehta. Sarasate Zigeunerweisen, Op 20. Joshue Bell (violin), RPO/Andrew Litton, 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 -6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans, 9.30 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Herriet Scott. 7.00 Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00

6.00 Richard West. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 To Be Continued. 1.45 Poems by Post. 2.00 Newsday, 2.30 People and

Politics, 3.00 World News, 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Science in Action. 4.00 Newsdesk, 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook, 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight. **TALK RADIO**

6.00 Bill Overton and Clare Catford. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 9.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 -6.00 Mike Dickin.

Seven (6732308). 2.55 - 7.00 Shopping

5.00 Try Living (9985655), 9.00 The

Roseeme Show (4788151), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5523384), 10.40 Michael Cole (3734742), 11.30 The Heat is On

(166109-1). 12.00 Living Issues (3722075).

elef: Fact or Fiction (1010839). 1.30

Ready, Steady, Cook (7140278), 2.05 Rolonda (4510346), 2.55 Living It Upl

12.30 Rescue 911 (1202636). 1.00 Beyond

(8370988). 6.00 Film: Murder on the Rio

Grande (1993) (9373075), 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files (1097988), 12.00 Close.

with Screenshop (48376495).

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JUST A week after (what you could term) the "World Cadet Championships" in Oropesa in Spain the junior troops were in action again in the World Junior Championships themselves - that is, under 20 - in Calicut in the south west of India in 13-round tournaments which ended on Mooday.

Although both the boys' and the girls' tournaments were extremely strong, first place in each was determined with e round to spare. The boys' was won by Darmen Sadvakasov from Kazakhstan, with e sensational 11/13. He was followed by Zhong Zhang from Peking on 10.5 and Hristos Banikas (Greece) and Deo Thien Hai (Vietnam) on 10.

Another Vietnamese player, Hoang Thanh Trang, took gold in the girls' event with an excellent 11/13. She was followed by Iweta Radziewicz (Poland) on 10.5 and 14-yearold Irina Krush, the runaway winner of the recent US Women's Championship, on 10.

Dur two representatives in the boys' event, Miroslav Houska and Simon Williams, both scored 6.5/13. The world girls' under-18 champion Ruth Sheldon could hardly have been expected to perform so well again immediately after her success in Oropesa: and after losing in the last round to the silver medallist Radziewicz, she ended up on just 7. Jovanka Houska got 6.

The new World Junior Champion is a fine technician with e penchant for queen endings, of which he won et least two in Calicut. But he can also transmute positional phuses into violent attacking ection, as in today's game.

If 9 Qd2 d5 more or less equalises, hence the rather odd 9 Qe2 when if 9... d5? 10 exd5 Nxd5 11 0-0-0 the pin is very nasty. 12 g3 prepared f4 20 Rhg1 Bd8

X ... 五〇

though he changed his mind after Black castled.

Possibly Black could safely win a piece starting 24... hxg6 25 hxg6 axb3 26 cxb3 but Sadvakasov's choice was much safer, and already good for him. After the hlunder 32 Nc2? leading to the diagram, Black smashed through. If 33 bxc3 Qb3+ 34 Kai Qxc3+ 35 Kbi Qxc2+ etc.

White: Zhang Zhong Black: Darmen Sadvakasov Calicut 1998 - round 7 Sicilian Najdorf

21 Kb1 a5 2 N£3 d6 22 Qg2 Kf8 3 d4 cxd4 23 h5 a4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 24 g6 fxg6 5 Nc3 e6 25 hxg6 h6 26 Na1 Bg5 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 27 a3 Ne3 8 f3 Nc6 28 Nxe3 Bxe3 9 Qe2 Na5 29 Qh3 Bxg4 10 0-0-0 Nc4 30 Rxg4 Kg8 11 Bg5 Be7 31 c3 Qe6 12 g3 Rc8 32 Nc2? (see 13 h4 0-0 diagram) Rxc3!

14 g4 b5 33 Nxe3 Rxe3 15 Bxf6 Bxf6 34 Rg3 Qc4 16 g5 Be7 35 Rgg1 Rxa3 17 Bh3 Qd7 36 hxa3 Qc2+ 18 Bg4 Rc6 37 Ka1 Qc3+ 19 Nd5 Rfc8 38 Ka2 Qb3+ 39 Ka1 Rc2 0-1

Love all: North-South

601 dealer South

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

TO COMBINE constructiveness with obstruction when you have a part score is always difficult. There are many factors to be considered and only some principles are firmly established. Usually, in an unopposed auction an advance beyond what is oecessary for game is considered a mild slam try, but sometimes only hidding enough for game may allow the opponents in

on the act. Another common practice (with e part score of 60 or more) is thet opening bid of 1 No-trumps may be based on anything hetween 11 and 19 points, irrespective of what no-trump range has been egreed.

This all brings me to this deal what would he your choice of opening hid with the South hand? Doe Heart allows East-West too much scope; Two Hearts, although not, as usual, forcing for one round, will be passed by North (who knows that his partner could not open Two Clubs) and again will let them in, and a beavy 1 No-trumps gives both opponents a chance.

1 like the solution my partner

North **∳**J3 ♥J8764 ♦J 103 **4**AJ5 West East **◆**K98752 **♦**Q 10 4 ₹52 ♥ cone ©AQ8762 094 **♣**K9643 **+**108 South **♠**A6 7AKQ1093 ¢К5 **+**Q72

found - he opened 2 No-trumps! Rather neat; if I had heen strong, he had enough pleying tricks to cooperate, and it effectively discoureged any enterprise from the opponents. There were nine tricks after e diamond lead and - wait for it! - we'd have hed no defence against an edverse spade game.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

FILM-MAKERS have used snakes property, Jennifer Lopez (right). to memorable effect in films This is followed by Rattled such as Live and Let Die and (10.30pm), in which hundreds of with Anaconda (9pm Sky architect with reptile phobia. MovieMax). In this entertaining hokum, a documentary crew on the Amazon do battle with e killer her sizzling performance opposite Hollywood's current hottest

serpentine double-bill slithers in inhabited by William Katt, an

Lyndon B Johnson, the 36th US President, was a man of contradictory qualities. Profiled snake. It stars Ice Cube, Eric in tonight's Biography (9pm Stoltz, Jon Voight and - thanks to History Channel), he worked for both civil-rights reform and George Clooney in Out of Sight - involvement in the Vietnam War. JAMES RAMPTON



(3771153). 12.00 Real Lives: The Fugitive (1781211). 1.00 Fight Deck (9213501). 1.30

SKY ONE 7.00 The Simpsons (85549), 7.30 The Thris Evens Breektast Show (79758). 8.30 Hollywood Squeres (77181). 9.00 Guilty! (22365). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 93568). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (73704). **12.00** Jenny Jones (3093433). **12.55** The Special K Collection (5311456 1.00 Days of Our Lives (97/4742), 1.55 The Special K Collection (77/426655), 2.00 Sally Jessy Rephael (6900549). 2.55 The Special K Collection (2909704), 3.00 Jermy Jones (7877926). 3.55 The Special K Collection (8430452). 4.00 Gulity! (17723). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5964). 6.00 Married with Children (6029), 6.30

Ancient Wantors (9569495). 2.00 Close.

Friends (7181), **7.00** The Simpsons (1433). **7.30** The Simpsons (3365), **8.00** The Simpsons (4821). 8.30 The Simpsons (8988), 9.00 Worst of Police Stopl (56100). 10.00 Cops (89926), 10.30 Cops (65346). 11.00 Friends (18452), 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (38162). 12.30 Renegade (28495). 1.30 Long Play (4037563). SKY SPORTS 1 6.00 Futbol Mundal (60549). 6.30 Futures In Sport (61623), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8676471), 735 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (904471). 8.15 Sky Sports Centre (8827162), 8.30 Racing News (43013).

9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (34365). 9.30

Golf - Sun City Millon Dollar Challenge

(8301075), 2,30 Golf - Australian Open 5513384). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (55346), 7.00 Golf - Sun City Millon Dollar Challenge (830520), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (99839), 11.00 Hold the Back Page (14075), 12.00 Sports Centre (78940), 1.00 **7.00** Golf - Australian Open (7333389). SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3838278). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (5157568), 7.45 Racing News (8301926), 8.15 Survival of the Fittes 6512181), 8.45 Sports Centre (6915758). 9.00 Football League Review (2795704). 9.30 What a Weekend (3867636). 10.00 Spanish Football (3870700), 12.00 The Rugby Club (3953487), 1.00 Termis: Davis Cup Finel (6533100), 7.00 Football (1335549), 10.00 Ford Golf USA (8120626). 12.00 Tennis: Davis Cup Final (7849785). 2.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (1885414). 4.00 Wild Spirits (5796230). 4.30 Royal Lymington Cup (7257308). 5.00 - 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1889230).

SKY SPORTS 3 11.30 Futures in Sport (47809549), 12.00 Trans World Sport (48461471), 1.00 Tight Lines (48447891), 2.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (ST/19617). 3.30 Foot-ball League Review (93227100). 4.00 Gillette World Sport Special (93213907). 4.30 Trans World Sport (14467013), 5.30 What a Weekand (93226471), 6.00 Wild Spirits (93223384), 6.30 H2O (93214536). 7.00 World Powerboat Championships 167195723), 7.30 Trans World Sport

(34090549), 8.30 Sabah Climbathon (40704487). 9.30 Wild Spirits (48462100). 10.00 Wresting (47802836). 12.00 Close.

7.30 Snowboarding (15758), 8.00 Alpine Sking (14433), 9.00 Ski Jumping (97810). 11.00 Motorsports Magazine (28278). 12.00 Snowboarding (57758). 1.00 Alpine Sking (60278). 2.00 Termis (76346). 3.30 Figure Skating (29623). 5.00 Alpine Skiing (8742). 6.00 Alpine Skiing (73742). 7.00 Boding (85636), 8.00 Offroad (94384). 9.00 Alpine Sking (461926), 9.45 Sumo (4377988), 11.00 Xirem Sports: Yoz Action (32471), 12.00-12.30 Xirem Sports (12579). LIK GOLD

7.00 Crossroeds (7737711), 7.30 Neighbours (4853365), 7.55 EastEnders (4260742), 8.30 The Bit (8576162), 9.00 Pactorial 8.30 The Sti (65/662) 300 The Edit (6590742) 9.30 The House of Eloft (9665636) 10.30 Angels (8596826) 11.00 Dalles (8500636) 11.55 Neighbours (82422487) 12.25 EastEnders (2783636) 1.00 Juliet Bravo (7549891). 2.00 Dallas 6013075), 2.55 The Bil (2475926), 3.25 (8015076), 2,55 The Bit (2875426), 3,55 The Bit (6882925), 3,55 EastEnders (9889782), 4,30 Angels (8308520), 5,00 All Creatures Great and Small (2754636), 6,06 Due South (7869655), 7,00 The Connedy Alternative: May to December (2263655). 7.40 it Ain't Half Hot, Mum (8585987). 8.20 240 f Ant Hall Hot, Will (2005) 1 920 Comedy Alternative: Dads Anny (7756810). 9,00 Men Behaving Badly (5456094) 9,40 Alive and Kicking (4795015), 11,30 The Bill (4937/26), 12,00 The Bill (7389853), 12,30 Dr Who Omnibus (9166308). 2.05 Blake's

4321758). 3.55 The Jerry Springer Show 9219013), 4.45 Tempestt (7260839), 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (8547278), 5.50 The Jerry Springer Show (6267075). 7.00 Rescue 911 (7944162). 7.30 Beyond Belef: Fact or Flotion (1520278), 8.00 Ally McSeel

> 9.00 WCW Nitro on TNT (34633384). 11.35 WCW Thunder (57470617). 1.30 Brass Target (1978) (81664114). 3.30 Eye of the Devil (1967) (50154650), 5.00 Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clusiess (9617). 7.30 Desmonds (6013). 8.00 Roseanne (8365). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (7100), 9.00 Cybil (51181), 9.30 Seinfeld (58433), 10.00 Films: National mpoon's Movie Madness (1961) (42433). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (74582). 1.00 Taxi (17327). 1.30 The Critic (12380), 2.00 Dr Katz (88921), 2.30 Soap (46375), 3.00 Hooperman (97563), 3.30 Nightstand (96308). 4.00 Close().

> GRANADA PLUS 6.00 The Box (9956655). 7.00 On the Buses (8459029), **7.30** Ferm Street Gang (8365636), **8.00** Surgical Spirit (9061891), **8.30** No. Honestly (8060182), **9.00** Classis Coronation Street (8084742), 9.30 Emmerdale (8967655). 10.00 thirtysomething (8354520), 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (8374384), 12.00 Coronation Street (8071278), 12.30 Emmerciale (8961471). 1.00 The Piglet Files (8378100). 1.30 Watching (8960742). 2.00 thirtysomething (4945365), 3.00 The Case book of Sherlock Holmes (449655). 4.00 Professionals (4498162). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (2279926), 9.00 Emmerdale (8677471). 6.30 Classic Coronation Street (8668723). 7.00 Mission Impossible (2174487). 8.00 Professionals (2087907), 9.09 Coronation St (4494346), 9.30 Sez Las (8858907). 10.00 Joker's Wild (8072907), 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (6081655), 11.00-2.00 As Granada Men & Motors (1283181).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SEC-1 N RELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsine 6.30 (839). 9.30 1798 - the Cornedy (933094), 10.05 Dangerfield (194278), 10.55 Film: Enter The Dragon (18185181). 12.30 The Stand-Up Show (92389), 1.00 BBC News 24 (1006785).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: 12.25 Botannan Arald Ulleim (6280162). 12.35 Na Luchagan Friacis (7397891). 12.35 An T-Olarith Selleascar (35848013). 2.05 Bowls Glasgow Classic (721617). 3.00 Wipeout (7309687). 6.00 News (87). 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (839). 10.20 Finday Sportscene (573278).
10.50 Bowls Glasgow Classic (44836).
11.50 The Stand-Up Show (374655).
12.20 Film: Enter The Dragon (654563).
2.00 Johns BBC News 24 (1049768).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30
Wales Today (839). 10.20 Peter Karrie
Unmasked (573278). 10.50 Film: Enter
The Dragon (68204162). 12.30 Stand-Up
Show (92389). 1.00 Film: Black Eagle
(473211). 2.35 BBC News 24 (50631766).

As Cariton except: 12.20 Angia News and Weather (8207839). 1.00 Spin

Second (42810), 1.30 Home and Away (97691384), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9945592), 2.35 A Splash of Colour (2071810), 5.10 Shortland Street (6107742). 5.40 News; Weather (736126). 6.00 Home and Away (481297). 6.25 Anglia News (662891). 11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (908618). 12.10 Soundrax Show (908618), 12.30 Soundrax (8682211), 12.30 Pirate TV (10785), 1.00 God's Gift (99669), 2.00 Cabavision Rewind (7676834), 2.45 The Haunted Fishtank (38259), 3.15 East Side Kids* (3610501), 4.25 Heirloom (87176105). 4.50 Nightscreen (22137704), 5.00 Coronation Street (62312).

CENTRAL As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (8207839). 1.00 Echo Point (42810). 2.40 Heart of the Country (4098758). 5.10 Shortland Street (600732). 5.40 Shortland Street (610742). 5.40 News; Weather (738128). 6.00 Home and Away (481297). 10.30 Central News (30918). 11.30 Tales from the Darkside (74153). 12.90 Short Story Cinema (5495698). 3.35 Jobfinder (230940). 5.20 Asian Eye (2559747).

HTV WALES As Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (25988), 12.15 HTV News (3991075). 1.00 Shortland Street (42610), 1.30 east: 10.15 This MornHome and Away (68907). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5569926). 2.40 Wildfer Rescue (4098758). 5.40 A Country Practice (610742). 6.00 Home and Away (481297). 6.25 Wales Toright (682291). 10.30 HTV News (309181). 11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (908618). 12.10 Soundtrax (3682211). 12.30 Pirate TV (10785). 1.00 God's Gift (99969). 2.00 CubaVision Rewind (7876334). 2.45 The Haunted Fishtank (38259). 3.35 East Side Kids" (3910501). 4.25 Heinform (87776105). 4.50 Nightscreen (22137704). 5.00 Coronation Street (62312).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 2.40 Relative Knowledge (4098758). 6.25 HTV West Weather (753015). 6.30 The West Tonight (907). 5.30 To Be Announced (33124). MERIDIAN

As Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (259988). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3991075). 1.00 Shortland Street (42810), 1.30 Home and Away (97691384), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9945592), 2.35 Summer Festivals (2071810), 5.10 2.35 Summer restivas (2076b); 5.30 Home and Away (510742); 5.37 The Listings (17700); 5.40 News; Weather (736128); 6.00 Meridian Toright (77655); 10.30 Meridian News (309181); 11.30

The Jerry Springer Show (908618). **12.40**Soundtrax (8582211). **12.30** Pirate TV (10785). **1,00** God's Gift (99969). **2,00**ClubeVision Rewind (7678834). **2,45** The Haunted Fishterix (38259). **3,15** East Side Kds* (3910501). **4,25** Heirloom (87176105), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (22137704), 5.00 Freescreen (62312). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
As Caritor except: 10.15 This Morning (25998); 12.15 Westcountry News (3891075); 12.27 Murrinations (6388786); 1.00 Step in Feith (42810); 2.40 Westcountry Update (4098758); 6.00 Westcountry Update (4098758); 6.00 Westcountry News (34952); 10.30 Westcountry News (309181); 11.30 Renegade (98433); 12.30 Pirate TV (10785); 1.00 God's Gift (99969); 2.00 C. 3497670 Rewind (7678834) 2.00 Cuba/Ision Rewind (7676834). 2.45 The Haunted Fishtank (38259). 3.15 East Side Kids* (3910501). 4.25 Hertoom (87176105). 4.50 Nightscreen (22137704). 5.00 Coronation Street (82312).

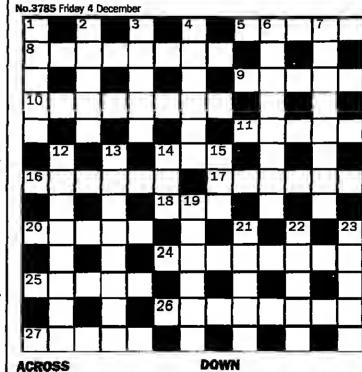
YORKSHIRE As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (259988), 12.15 Calendar News (3991075). **1.00** Home and Away (38505029). **1.25** Jerry Springer Show (5121365). **2.10** Emmerdale (86584094). 2.40 Shortland Street (4098758), 5.40

News (\$40100), 5.55 Calendar (771146), 6.30 Tonight (907), 10.30 Calendar News and Weather (309181), 11.30 Caprice's Travels (74153), 12.00 Funny Giris - Serious Business (5495698). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News (3991075). 5.55 North East Weather (104636). 6.00 North East (77655). 10.30 North East News (309181).

As Charmel 4 except: 12.00 Judge Joe Brown (46809384), 12.30 Sesame Street (73000641), 1.00 Planed Plant (#556510), 1.30 Film: It Came from be-neath the Sea* (#8483346), 3.00 The Ital-ian Kitchen (#6360617), 4.30 Montel Williams (#776925), 5.00 Planed Plant (18365162), 5.30 Countdown (11767278), 6.00 News (19351742), 6.10 Heno (80098297). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33745471). 7.25 Y Clwb Rygbi (39876033). 8.00 Cefn Gwlad (16361346). 8.30 Newyddion GMBC (1636349). 8-30 Newyodon (14031687). 10.00 Brookside (95128636). 10.35 Friends (14059384). 11.05 Euro-trash (86291365). 11.35 Harry Hill (75355075). 12.05 TPI Friday (70998211). 140 4 Later: The Divine David Presents (2206018). 3.25 Puk Nini (31985/47). 3.55 Puk Nini (15097056). 4.30 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



5 Plunder (5) Titled ledy (8) Meat products (5) 10 Tincture of opium (8) 11 Purloin (5) 14 Body of water (3)

16 Palm used in weaving (6) 17 Stahbing weapon (6) 18 Father (3) 20 Modern means of communi-

cation (1-4) 24 Uphold (8) 25 Lukewarm (5) 26 Ponder (8) 27 Religious song (5) DOWN

Propel using two oars (5) Wait in line (5) Drinking tube (5) Put on (6) Not seen by audience (8) Bedside refreshment facility (3-5) 12 Innocuous (8) 13 Sanctioned by euthority (8) 14 Unhappy (3) 15 Tot up (3) 19 Counting-frame (6) 21 Shell-bearing gasteropod (5) 22 Canoe which goes up and

down? (5)

23 Cynical expression (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Persian, 5 Alley (Personally), 8 Timic, 9 Chances, 10 Landscape, 12 Aim, 13 Easure, 14 Shrick, 17 Pea, 18 Go-between, 20 Egghead, 21 Haste, 23 Start, 24 Mutable, DOWN: 1 Petal, 2 Ran, 3 Incisor, 4 Nectar, 5 Aware, 6 Locrative, 7 Yashmak, 11 Nostalgia, 13 Express, 15 Hatchet, 16 Ibidem, 18 Great, 19 Nicce, 22 Sob.

FRIDAY

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Ateguns and dogs Indsepast Corset

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The wine anti-Communication the media. He is down on his father's

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Home P12

DE THIS SEC

31 6.50

PETER CONCHIE TELEVISION REVIEW

o's brain has gone to bed ream of Friends and Havers. Coma Thursday the theory goes, viewers the cognitive equivalent by pylemes. Perhaps this ins the bounteous feast of d investigation served up lependent broadcasters, up last night was Roger presenting Tha Cook 1 Special (ITV), an mg, over-long enquiry ir crime actitled "The Motor Show".

scidentally employed Alan cardidge. "We catch them on he take, being poid for their urrogant thievery," thundered fur man in his hybrid sudoubtedly a capable fellow. It's won awards, so I'm told, and used to be a serious roadcaster — The World at The and PM were both once volced by the man. But 20 fears on, the overall effect is hat of a Clive James who bath of a moment, the scene where he aurprised a man bandling tolen vehicles was pricelass. Its oame was Mr Court. The lapless chap was handling tolen vehicles when the books monster appeared out of nowhere. "You bought a follow blike, Mr Court. You have een caught," Cook continued to subject as he got into his index. "We'll perhaps see you court, Mr Court, in see a wobbly etaway across a busy road.

The pre-publicity promised out if nowhere when the "Mr Bigs" of riganised car crime. One auch ir Big couldn't find the carey when one of Cook's ommis chefs came to collect one etolen wheels. He'd ropped them one of Cook's ommis chefs came to collect one etolen wheels in the then not perhaps these Mr Bigs eren't quite as big as we'd sen led to belleve. Such is son't and so enting a programme
ad in your honour must
an impect, and Cook
is to be a devotee of his
egend, delivering his lines
care, ruma bad

with inside information.
Incompetence among solicitors is commonplece, as anyone who's ever bought e bouse will tell you, but thet they can also be dishonest came es a surprise, thet it sppears to be tolerated, e usety shock. The verdicts of the tribunal's most recent sittings revealed that balf of the solicitors found

Ine "crook", who'd been covertly filmed arranging to iteal cars "to order", seemed almost pleesed to meet his ourly celebrity interrogator – Walt till my mates see this," is face cried out.

The next investigation of the evening came in Dispatches (C4), during which reporter Sue Bishop managed to say twice as much as Cook in half the time. *Dispatches*, while more earnest in tone, spoke, too, with a tabloid brogue, which was a shaune because it had such a good case that this was unnecessary. This red-top approach is e function of abbreviation and while the

op was an effective its, well-armed

BBC

6.00 Kliroy (S) (T) (5757836). 6.40 Style Chellenge (S) (1413888). 10.06 City Hospital (S) (T) (7289365). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weathar (T) (4821838). 11.00 Good Living (S) (4931013). 11.25 Cen't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (4934100). 11.55 News; Ragionel News; Weether (1858549). 12.00 Pees the Buck (S) (9538610). 12.26 Going for a Song (S) (9524617). 12.50 The Weather Show (S) (T) (73399839). 1.00 News; Weether (T) (57742). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (45898013). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (97895100). 2.05 Ironside (R) (3208128). 2.55 Wipaout (R) (S) (4998348).

Children's BBC: Playdeys (R) (S) (9485617). 3.45
The All New Popeys Show (R) (8856828). 3.55 Dear Mr
Berkar (S) (3390907). 4.10 Ace Vantura: Pet Detectiva (S) (T) (136177). 4.35 Record Braekers (S) (T) (9058297). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2665075). 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (8391691).

Neighbours. The Erinsborough Cocktall Competition gets under wey (S) (T) (169926).

6.00 News| Weether (1) (87).

B.00

\$.30 Regional News. And weather (T) (63

10

7.00 Wsekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson. her little helper, Johnethen Malband (S) (T) (1891).

7.30 Top of the Pops. Boyzona and All Saints ere both live in the studio. They're joined by Madonne, Vonda Shepard, Faithless and Steps (S) (T) (723).

Cor Work. Beck on the beat with Bristoi's enti-car crima unil. This week, they stake out a car-park (7839).

6.30

6.00 Ne The Clothes Bhow Undressed. Saline Scott looks back at 10 years of the Clothes Show Live event, hald at the NEC in Birmingham. Naomt Campbell and Kylle Minogue help Bcott remember the way we were (6346). vsi Regional Newsi Weather (T) (8686)

Dengertisid. Nigel Hevers, our police surgeon with the suave, minor public school menner le called out to confirm the deeth of a young hitchhiker. Maanwhile, Cremar's life hangs in the belence es she undergoes several major oparations (S) (T) (408723). 9.30 Goodness Gracious Me. Thie week, Mrs Eatmors and "Fifty Ways to Leave Your Mother" (S) (T) (52348).

DHOIGH Enter the Bregon (Robert Clouse 1973 US). Bruce Lee's most famous 100 minutes. Sea *Film* of the Day, below (T) (568075).

10.30

Newsnight. With Kirsty Wark (T) (602907).

10.40 Fridsy NI Caprice, G West Ham

light's All Wright. Manic Street Preachers, Greg Rusedski and Paul Oakenfold join ths n United striker (S) (722100).

10.30 London

Weekend Tonight (T) (309(81)

11.30 Theatreld new production

land. Emma Freud considers Mick Gordon's scilon of Oscer Wilde's Sa*lom*e and the RSC's of *The Marchant of* Vanice (S) (74153).

Have I Got News for You (S) (47826).

10.00 News

(T) (34452)

The Btend-Up Show. Ardal O'Henlon Introducae three more stand-ups (S) (47327).

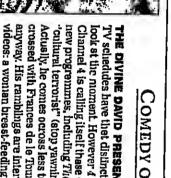
12.30 HIM Black Engle (Erio Karson 1968 US). Lemaduck merilel erts adventure rounds oil tha kung furthems. Sho Kosugi is the spy dispetched to Melle whithe KGB (supervised by Jean-Cleuds Van Damme) is ettempting to steel a sunken hi-tech leser (948246). 12.30 Comedy Nation (S) (23259). 11.15 Stella Street. David Bowie decides to try etand-up comedy (S) (1) (#9592).

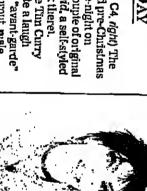
Leter with Jools Holland. The re-formed Cultura Club, Jazz lagend Herble Hencock and Lucinda Williems are emong the guesta (S) (47097).

Joins BBC News 24 (76777124). To 7am.

THE ROMANS IN GRITAIN (730pm BBC2, right) The Roman invesion of Britsin: 55BC. True or false? Actually, Julius Coesser was bonsting when he said "veni, vidi, vidi", and it was up to the Emperor Claudius to claim Britain - or the non-Piet or Scot part of it anyway - for Roma. This new series from the Open University is an attempt to separate fact from fiction about the Romans' sojourn in these isles - like the myth that has Ancient Britons as woad-smeared sovages. Actually, our forebears were pretty serious farmers and often welcomed the influx of foreign goods. Our guide goes by the name of Guy de la Béddyere - s DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

1.00 Cefé 21 (S) (8053921). To 135am







ENTER THE DRAGON (10.20pm B8C1, right) The ultimote chopsocky spectocular, with the still-musurpassed Bruce Lce kicking and elhowing his way into en Islend fortress where the man responsible for his sister's suicide Islic killed herself rather than be raped by him) is holding a martial arts festivel. This was the 1973 film that established Lee as a superstar and kick-started, as it were, the whole kung fu creze of those strange years. During one fight scene. Lee apparently performed a flying-kick so fast that it couldn't be captured on 24 france-per-second film, and they had to shoot in slow motion so that it didn't look faked.

...

COMEDY OF THE DAY

12.00 Funny GIJ 12.35 God (S) (683223 seaQuest E (644314), 4 Nightscreer

Qiris - a Serious Guainess (5495696). God's Gift (S) (T) (304766). **1.35** Club@Vision 33230). **2.15** World Football (39380). **2.45** set DSV (R) (S) (2376940). **3.35** Theha (R) (S) (T) 4). **4.25** Cybsrnet (R) (S) (87176105). **4.50** ITV reen (4429259). **6.30** News (33124). To Bem.

THE DIVINE DAVID PRESENTS (1240em C4. right) The TV schedules have thet distinctly constipated pre-Christmas look at the moment. However 4 Later, as late-night on Channel 4 is calling itself thase days, has a couple of original new programmes, including The Divine David, a self-styled cultural terrorist" (stop) sawning at the back theret.

Actually, he comes ocross less terrorist, more Tim Curry crossed with Frances de le Tour, but he's quite a laugh enyway. His ramblings are interspersed with "avant-garde" videos: a woman bresst-feeding a Brussels sprout, misle Nsomi Campbell impersonstors, that sort of thing



BBC2

OO Childran's BBC: Heiry Jeramy (5565365). 7.05
Teletubbies (\$) (5566907). 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (8581487). 7.65 Smart (\$) (T) (1404181). 8.20 Robinson Sucroe (R) (T) (4308855). 8.45 Johnson and Frisnde (R) (\$) (3885617). 8.55 Heiry Jeremy (R) (\$) (8337704). 9.00 Storytime (\$) (2970487). 9.10 See You, See Ma (\$) (8238807). 6.30 Watch (\$) (3777636). 6.45 Come Outsida (\$) (3785691). 10.00 Taletubbles (R) (\$) (10723). 10.30 Megsmaths (\$) (T) (8425907). 10.50 Look and Reed (\$) (8438471). 11.10 Landmarks (\$) (T) (3153568). 11.30 English File (5075). 12.00 Testament (46297).

2.10 Internetional Tennia. Pat Cash pleys Yarnick Noah as the ATP Senior Tour raschea London (S) (38:0636). Working Lunch (85810), 1.00 Johnson and Friends (21114758), 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (1285884).

3.26 News Regional News Weather (T) (8236100).
3.30 Gardeners' World (R) (S) (T) (617). 4.00 Chenga Thet (R) (S) (T) (9401810). 4.25 Raedy, Steady, Cook (S) (T) (9411297). 4.55 Lowri (S) (T) (7376723). 5.30 Todey's tha Day (S) (T) (988).

6.45 Robot Wers. More larks with the home-made robots, as Chennal 6's "voice of football", Jonathan Paerce, cranks up the fun (S) (1) (298297). The Simpsons. Double episode of. In "Bart's Dog Gets an F", the family dog has Homer at the end of his telher, and in "War of the Simpsone" (at 6.25pm), Merge forces Homer to go on a rural retreat (R) (S) (T) (48747).

7.15 Elsotric Circus. Mick Hucknalt Dennis Quaid end Natasha Richardeon plug singles and moviee (880926).

7.30

[Billite] The Romans In Britein, Like it eeys on the pecket, e history of the Romans in Britain. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (365).

6.00 The House Detectives. In thie repeat Irom the last asries a modest Victorian country house in Norfolk yields tha secrets of its Iurbulant pest (R) (S) (8161). Gardening Neighbours. Mora from thosa reel-lifs garden make overs. Catriona and Berbara ergus about whet colour their sharad lence should be (S) (T) (4988).

8.00 The Bill.
on the ce
when he a
This episc
that the au
Answer ou

The Fast Show (R) (S) (7810).

9.00 Britain's Murneghe 0800 555 building e

Moat Wanted. Penny Smith and Dermot an front ITV's answer to Crimewatch. Phone 111 if you recognise the bloke holding up the oclety (S) (T) (7549).

9.30

10.00

4 Leterr Pop-Up Video (53150).

IN Blood from the Mummy's Tomb (Seth Holt and Micheal Carraras 1972 UR). Seth Holt died during filming (hence the double credit) of this above-par Hammer Egyptologist nonsansa. The leeds are Andrew Keir and Velerie Leon (688766). To 325em.

arlton

(1525297)

6,25

3,20

5,40 Nswsj Wsskand Weether (1) (736128).

II. Lennox and Proctor are in compatition to teke rese of an assaulted rurse, but can Lennox win also has to complete hie aafety training course? sode was written by one Anthony Valentine? Is acting Anthony Valentine or a nemesake? on e postcerd please (1) (5933).

9.00

10.30 Eurotrash (S) (T) (975385).

12.40 11.05 Harry Hill (772013), 11.35 TFI Fridey (S) (T) (985616).
12.40 [CHOTS] 4 Leter: The Divine Devid Presents.
Sae Comady of the Day, balow (5135308).

3.25 14 15 Puk Nini (R) (4523360). To 4em.

FILM OF THE DAY

ha (S) (T) (2256988), 10.15 This Morning (T) 36520), 12.20 Your Shout (5207839), 12.30 News; ther (T) (59636), 1.00 London Todey (T) (42810), 1 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (7530182), 2.10 He and Awey (S) (T) (86584084), 2.40 High Road (T) (4098758), 3.10 ITN News Heedlinee (T)

en's ITVr Wizadore (R) (8224907). 3.30 ald the Koale (S) (3306566). 3.45 Tha ures of Ceptain Pugweeh (S) (3777297). 4.05 is Walch (1680433). 4.20 Fun Houee (S] (T) 52). 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (2083075).

540 Home nd Awey (S) (T) (8101742).

B.00 Capitel of Duchese of their favour Chriatmas. Caprica, Ian Wright, the of York and David Ginola Introduca filme ebout urite cherities (S) (77855).

7.00 Bruce's consume squeezes Price is Right. Guaee tha price, win e r durable. Bruca Forsyth rolls his eyas and the teughe (S) (1) (9487).

7.00

7.30 Coronetion Street. Less life le in dangsr after he heips himself to soms drugs (1) (891).

7.55

The Political Glot (486569)

6.30 B.00 **Gerdan Doctors.** The warshouse-dwelling ectress Trevyn McDowell wente a garden to complement the stark exterior and remind her of her South African roots (8079). **Brookside.** Ron wents access to Herry Susennehts revenge continues. Mick has yet enothar admirer (T) (2384).

Frisnds. "The One with the Worst Beet Men". The duck swallows Ross's wedding ring (1) (9278).

Strestmate. Davina McCell scoure tha streats of Edinburgh end Chester for likely soul- or bed-metes (S) (T) (70742).

Fresier. Fresiar takes action to stop Eddle the dog trom fethering any more pups in this further repeat from the very first series (R) (S) (T) (32094).

11.20 60

hannel

6,00 7.00 The Big Breektast (S) (1) (47365)

Schools: Ott Limits (7430758), 9.25 Schools at Work (4874568), 6.30 Eureks! (3762704), 6.45 Stop, Look, Listen (3863487), 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (8905891), 10.10 TVM (3840384), 10.25 Cereidaen 2 (3845839), 10.40 Topl En Espanol (8434655), 11.00 The Technology Programme (3842704), 11.15 Stage Ona (3865655).

Here's One I Meds Earlier (R) (S) (T) (347t). 12.00 Saseme Streat (31365). 12.30 I Dream of Jeennie (T) (67278). 1.00 Judge Jos Brown (T) (40452). 1.30 To Beidly Go (75335891).

1.50 EILM The Chip Thet Died ot Shame (Michsel Reiph, Basil Deerden 1955 UK). The demobbad crew ot a motor torpedo bost buy thair old vessel end turn to smuggling. Richard Attenborough, George Bakar end Bill Owen ster in this Nicholes Monserrat yarn (87333723).

u**ctore' Lot Special** (623), **4.00** Fifteen to One **4.30** Countdown (S) (8042836), **4.55** Rickl Lake) (7381881), **5.30** Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (384),

00.0

TFI Fridey. Chris Evans exchangas bedinege with Jeck Dee end Adrianne. Muelc from REM, Besutiful South end Simply Red (S) (75297).

Channel 4 News| Weether (S) (T) (989385).

7.30

900

US) The most inleresting thing about this "erotic thrillist" is that the A in the director's name stands for Alexander. An insurence investigator talls for a claiment (252:1075). IIII Assaesin of the Tsar (Karen Shekhnezarov 1991 Rus/UK). A schizophrenic patient in e mental

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILHERT

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW Independent 4 December 1998

(R) (S) (T) (6443655). 7.30 Milkshakai (S) (2082655). 7.35 Wimzle's Houso (R) (S) (6727756). 6.00 Havaks.zoo (R) (S) (7058610). 8.30 Dappledown Farni (7057161). 9.00 Floyd Uncorked (S) (T) (7048433). 6.30 The Oprah Wintrey Show (8769907). 10.20 Sunsel Beach (S) (T) (8691079). 11.10 Leaza (R) (S) (8931838). 12.00 5 Naws at Noon (S) (T) (7068297). 12.30 Family Attairs (S) (T) (868907). 1.30 Sons end Daughters (2668278). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1032758). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2626433).

3.30 30 FILM Groken Lullaby (Micheel Kennedy 1994 US). Thriller ebout a women's ellempts to solve the riddle of her eurn's mysterious past. A cosmetics magnate sepereted from her femily during the Russlan Revolution anilsts the help of her niece (Mal Harris), a ganealogist, in tracking down her reletives. Her only clue is an old photograph of a child posing beside a music box which is adorned by a priceless Febergé egg (T) (7074520).

B.00 100 Per Cent. Isolstion tank geme show (S) (2894297). 5.20 The Rosesnne Show (9558452).

Family Atteirs. Marie dumps Gary because ehe is getting nowhere with him in the bedroom. And Jeck's letest ploy of awitching things round in the house finally tips. Elea over the edge (S) (T) (2865549). 5 News, including First on Five. National and internetional news with Kirsty Young (5) (7) (1930346)

Frostrup on Friday. Meriella Frostrup telkzzz to Simon Le Bon end Lasley Joseph (S) (2874433).

6.00 Fort 6oysrd. Mambers of a gym in Mueweil Hill, London, are the latest contestents in this lively, Imaginative fantasy chellenge show (S) (T) (6028181).

10.60 The People v Jerry Sadowitz. Sadowitz probes the audience's innermost sexual fantesies (S) (3167520)